



Japan urges Iran to accept accord

TEHRAN (AFP) — Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda "strongly urged" Iran Sunday to drop its opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian accord on autonomy for the occupied territories, Japanese diplomats said. Mr. Fukuda made the appeal during talks here with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Bonjerdi, shortly after his arrival for a brief visit, they said. Tehran's position "weakens trust in Iran and threatens to isolate the Iranian leaders," a Japanese diplomat quoting the envoy as telling the historic accord or, at the very least, to stop trying to undermine it, the diplomat said, adding that despite the firm message the talks were cordial. But Mr. Velayati reaffirmed Iran's rejection of the "shameful" and "disastrous" accord, the diplomat said. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Friday that Mr. Fukuda would express Tokyo's disappointment at Tehran's opposition to the agreement and that he would call on his counterparts here to support peace moves in the region. An Iranian newspaper warned Sunday that "any such request was doomed to fail, given the Iranian leadership's tough stand on the issue."

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Prince Hassan visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday toured several armed forces units and a Royal Air Force base, an armed forces formation in the northern region, and one of the formations of the Third Armoured Division carrying out a military exercise. Prince Hassan voiced appreciation for all participants in the exercises. The Crown Prince was accompanied by the chief of staff of land and air forces.

Clinton may travel to Middle East

WASHINGTON (AFP) — White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty said Saturday that President Bill Clinton could travel soon to the Middle East, notably in Syria to meet with President Hafez Al Assad. Asked in an interview on CNN television whether Mr. Clinton would possibly travel soon to Middle East, perhaps to see Mr. Assad, Mr. McLarty would not rule it out. "I think it's possible, but I certainly would not make that a forecast or prediction. I think the president obviously went quickly to work talking to leaders in that region, but we'll have to see about whether a trip will be warranted by President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and others," Mr. McLarty said.

King Fahd appoints regional assemblies

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd named members of regional assemblies in 13 provinces Sunday in a further step to give Saudis a greater say in the running of their country's affairs. A royal decree appointing the assemblies and published by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) followed last month's appointment of a 60-man national Shura (consultative) council, the kingdom's first representative body for almost 60 years. The decree named up to 20 men to each regional assembly. A first reading of the names showed most belong to the prominent tribal and trading families and clans and many carried the academic title of doctor, indicating a high proportion of middle-class professionals.

Britain urges peaceful end to Iran-UAE row

NICOSIA (R) — A senior British diplomat holding talks in Tehran has urged Iran and the United Arab Emirates to settle their territorial dispute peacefully. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Britain's Assistant Under-Secretary for the Middle East Michael Burton made the call at talks, Saturday in Tehran with Hamid Asafi, foreign ministry director general for European affairs. "He (Burton) said that it is the position of the British government that the dispute between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates over three Persian Gulf islands should be solved mutually through peaceful means," IRNA said.

Jailed Briton's wife sees husband in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The wife of a Briton jailed in Iraq for illegally entering the country has visited her husband three times since arriving in Baghdad four days ago, diplomats said Sunday. "She is now in Abu Ghirab prison. The Iraqi allows her to stay as long as she needs," a diplomat said. Julie Ride, arrived in Baghdad Thursday to see her husband Paul who is serving a seven-year sentence for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait.

Arafat, wife expecting child

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat and his wife, Suha, are expecting a child, a leading Tunisian newspaper said Sunday. Al Ra'i Al Amm did not give any date for what it termed the "happy event." If correct, the child will be their first. Mrs. Arafat could not be reached for comment. Mr. Arafat was in Cairo on Sunday addressing a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers.

Total Israeli withdrawal will be achieved, Arafat promises Arab League

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Palestine Leader Yasir Arafat pledged at an Arab League meeting here Sunday to secure a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and described the autonomy deal with Israel as "just a start."

"Now that we are on the threshold of a new era as part of the new world order we must focus our attention on the interests of our nation and on its security," Mr. Arafat said in a speech to Arab League foreign ministers.

Among the remaining goals are "the liberation of all occupied Palestinian land, the restoration of the right of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," he said.

"The agreement we have reached (with Israel) represents just a start, nothing more," said Mr. Arafat, who sealed the historic peace deal with a handshake with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn.

Diplomats said the Arab League foreign ministers were expected to draft a statement of general support for the autonomy accord, while taking into account the opposition or reservations of certain member states.

Most of the Arab League's 21 members have approved the accord, but dissent has come from Iraq, Libya and Lebanon, with Syria, a key player, remaining non-committal.

A lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, strongly urged by the United States, is not on the agenda for the Arab League meeting.

The foreign ministers are due to discuss possible problems in the application of the accord.

"It is not a complete solution, not a complete solution, but only part of a transitional phase ... which accomplishes a small part of our rights," Mr. Arafat told 19 Arab foreign ministers, gathered for a regular six-monthly meet-



Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, accompanied by Arab League Secretary-General Essam Abdal Meguid and aides, arrives at the opening Sunday of a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo (AFP photo).

ing.

It was the first time Mr. Arafat had addressed a major Arab gathering since the PLO signed the deal with Israel last week.

"The agreement we arrived at is only the basis for an interim solution and the forerunner to a final settlement, which must be based on complete withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian lands, especially Holy Jerusalem," he added.

There was no momentous welcome for the man who for decades symbolised the Arabs'

(Continued on page 5)

Israel lifts Gaza siege; soldier in hit-and-run

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli military Sunday eased restrictions on travel by the 775,000 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, which was sealed off Wednesday to prevent attacks during Jewish new year celebrations.

A hitchhiking Israeli soldier was injured here meanwhile in a hit-and-run incident involving a car registered in the Israeli-occupied territories, police said.

The soldier suffered leg and neck injuries when the car, which had hit license plates identifying it as belonging to a Palestinian from the occupied territories, hit him as he was standing near a bus station, police said.

Military sources said the closure of the Gaza Strip had been lifted at dawn Sunday, although Gazans who work in Israel would continue to undergo strict security checks at the frontier.

The Israeli army and police traditionally impose strict security measures during Jewish holidays, fearing an uprising in resistance attacks.

Israel's signing of an autonomy agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has made little or no difference to the threat, according to police, and hardline Islamic groups opposed to the peace deal have pledged to continue their attacks.

The nearly two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories already require a special permit to enter occupied Jerusalem and Israel in a ban launched at the end of March.

However 50,000 permits have been issued for workers to enter the Jewish state.

Local leaders of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction said the PLO had told Palestinians to halt demonstrations in favour of the peace accord with Israel.

Hamas to boycott polls for self-rule

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) denied Sunday it wanted to participate in elections to a self-rule council in the Israeli-occupied territories and said it would ask Palestinians to boycott the vote.

"The position of Hamas is clear towards rejecting self-rule and any elections related to it as we consider these elections to be a part of the cursed agreement and a result of the recognition of the enemy," Mohammad Nazzal, the Hamas representative in Jordan, told Reuters.

Senior PLO official Nahil Nazzal was quoted Saturday as saying Hamas wanted to participate in the elections.

Dr. Shaath said the rival Palestinian movement could come to power through the ballot box if people in the occupied territories did not see tangible benefits quickly from the PLO-Israel deal.

Under the terms of the PLO-Israel accord signed last week, elections to a local Palestinian governing council are set to take place within nine months.

Hamas ideologically opposes peace with Israel and has condemned the PLO agreement with Israel as treason.

"This is our final stance and we will ask the Palestinian people to boycott these elections," Mr. Nazzal added.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told reporters Jordan was ready to normalise relations with Israel at the White House on Sept. 13.

"Our Executive Committee appealed for reconciliation," Mr. Arafat told the Observer newspaper.

Hamas replied they are ready to attend a meeting very soon in Yemen."

Jordan preparing compensation demand

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan is preparing a multi-billion dollar demand for compensation from Israel and the rest of the world for taking in waves of Palestinian refugees over the years, government officials said.

Lawyers and economists are laying the groundwork for a peace dividend under an equation which maintains that the economic strain of refugees of the small independent Kingdom outweighs the benefits of Palestinian money and labour.

Estimates vary widely but while Jordanian officials publicly say Palestinians form as little as 40 per cent of the population of four million, independent Kingdom outweighs the benefits of Palestinian money and labour.

"Of course we have to ask for this," Prime Minister

Abdul Salam Al Majali said last week in confirming that Jordan was seeking state compensation from Israel. "As a state we have suffered... we have to be compensated for it."

Officials say a flood of international aid and development money to the Israeli-occupied territories following the PLO-Israel accord signed last week would widen Jordan's economic disparity with the West Bank and destabilise the Kingdom.

Amr Al Khasawneh, the palace's top legal adviser, said he could not put a figure on how much compensation the Kingdom might seek.

But others cited as a starting point government figures showing that Jordan had lost at least \$1 billion a year since 350,000 of its citizens, mainly Palestinians, were kicked out of Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf

war and returned to the Kingdom.

"I don't think they expect to get that but they are using this issue as part of a wider push for a share of regional aid," said one diplomat.

King Hussein has played down the issue of compensation for absorbing Palestinians whom he considers to be part of the Jordanian family.

But officials say despite the integration of refugees from the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars and their undemocratic role in the economy, the Kingdom has made sacrifices by giving them citizenship and a home — and is clearly owed a debt.

The issue has raised hackles among many Palestinians with Jordanian citizenship who believe the Kingdom is trying to cash in on them.

There could also be friction with the PLO, the key figure

in complex negotiations with Israel over the right of return and compensation of the Palestinian diaspora.

"There is no doubt that the refugees have contributed to the economy but it is easily demonstrable that they have been a burden on a country of small resources," Mr. Khasawneh said in an interview.

He said there were international precedents for state compensation going back to World War II.

Apart from its claim from Israel, the Kingdom is seeking aid from foreign donors who will help shape regional development.

Officials said Israel has floated in bilateral negotiations the idea it could help improve the lives of Palestinians who stay in their host countries, raising Jordanian hopes they could receive some Israeli funds.

Mubarak, Rabin discuss peace accord, 'Israel-Arab relations'

Combined agency dispatches

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks here Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and praised Israel for taking a "strong step towards peace" by accepting Palestinian self-rule.

Speaking at a joint press conference following their two-hour meeting, Mr. Mubarak praised Israel for reaching agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Palestine autonomy.

The request by the U.S. State Department was contained in a letter received by the government Thursday, the Jordanian official said, speaking on condition he was not identified further.

The letter arrived two days after Jordan and Israel signed an agenda outlining the principles for a peace agreement which envisages normalised relations after 45 years of conflict.

"The letter asks Jordan to embark on confidence-building measures after it has formalised an agenda for negotiations with Israel," the official told the Associated Press.

"We are trying to conclude something with the Syrians," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

The Israeli and Egyptian leaders first met privately in the presidential palace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea before being joined by advisers, the officials said.

The Israeli prime minister was scheduled to return to Israel later

Sunday aboard an Israeli air force plane.

It was Mr. Rabin's first meeting with Mr. Mubarak since the signing of the autonomy agreement at the White House in Washington on Sept. 13.

Egyptian officials said prior to the talks that Egypt could play a major role in promoting the establishment of ties between Israel and other Arab states.

Mr. Rabin visited Morocco last week for talks with King Hassan II but diplomatic relations were not immediately forthcoming.

Egypt is the only Arab state to have made peace with Israel and it has played a mediating role between the Jewish state and the Palestinians since the start of the Middle East peace talks in Madrid in October 1991.

Israel's U.N. ambassador Gad Yaacobi said last week that "five to eight Muslim countries" could open diplomatic relations with Israel this year.

The Israeli premier's visit coincided with a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had earlier addressed, seeking their support for the PLO-Israel accord.

"We are expecting Egypt to influence other Arab countries to contribute to the peace process," Israeli Health Minister Haim Ramon told reporters in occupied Jerusalem Sunday. "This is the main goal of the Rabin visit to Egypt."

Israeli-Syrian negotiations have deadlocked over Syria's demand for a complete, one-step Israel withdrawal in the Golan Heights seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel wants assurances that Syria would in return agree to full-fledged diplomatic ties with embassies and free trade and travel.

The Clinton administration has reportedly been trying to use the momentum of the Israel-PLO accord to achieve progress also in talks between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last week, asking him to re-invoke groups opposed to the Israeli-PLO accord so as to shore up Israeli confidence in Syria.

President Assad is also expected to visit Egypt in the next few days, according to press reports in Cairo.

Israeli officials could not confirm reports that Mr. Rabin was carrying a message to Mr. Assad to be delivered by Mr. Mubarak.

Israeli newspapers said Israel also hoped Egypt could mediate diplomatic openings with other Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, and an end to an Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Mr. Shahal said Mr. Rabin and Mr. Mubarak were expected to discuss the possibility of Egypt training Palestinian police.

Opponents of Israel-PLO deal escalate their war of rhetorics

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Opponents of the ground-breaking Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel peace accord on Sunday stepped up their criticism of the agreement.

Opponents argue that the pact does not guarantee the Palestinians, including members of the PLO's parliament-in-exile, a permanent homeland and fails to deal with such difficult issues as refugees and the future of Jerusalem.

The statement issued in Jordan was signed by 110 prominent Palestinians, including members of the Palestine National Council.

It called on Palestinians "to resist and foil the submissive accord through peaceful means."

It added: "We urge them to hold fast to the Palestinian national struggle and historical rights, foremost of which are the right to return to Palestine, the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital."

The petition was signed by leaders of 10 Palestinian hardline factions, several Islamic fundamentalist groups and prominent lawyers, businessmen and political activists living in Jordan.

In Damascus, Husein Sheikholeslam, Iran's visiting deputy foreign minister, met with Dr. Habash to consider ways to torpedo the accord.

Mr. Sheikholeslam told reporters after his two-hour meeting with the leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that the PLO-Israel agreement "is doomed to failure."

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

Palestinians want return of relics

By Geraldine Chatelard
Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The dispute is to be settled by

Palestinians and Israelis is not limited to the land but also to the treasures lying beneath it.

The Palestinians will seek authority over the archaeological sites of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip once limited self-rule begins, and they want relics uncovered by Israeli archaeologists in those regions be handed back.

"The treasures found under our land are part of our national heritage. They must be returned to us," said Mahmoud Hawari, a 39-year-old Palestinian archaeologist who teaches at Bir Zeit University, the most prestigious higher education institution in the occupied territories.

Beyond the squabbles over property, the conflict is primarily political. Each party wants history to be its witness, to justify its right to live on that land.

"All Israeli archaeological activity in our areas aims at unearthing a Jewish presence without bothering about sites of the Islamic eras," he said.

"Until recently, one often saw bulldozers smashing through the upper layers to quickly reach vestiges of Jewish life, thereby destroying traces of Arab civilisation," he added.

For archaeologist Nazmi Al Jubi, a member of the Palestinian technical committee charged with antiquities, "archaeology's ideological stake makes the handing over of power to us a very thorny issue."

In fact, the matter does not figure in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Israeli autonomy deal signed Monday in Washington. The document refers to a transfer

of authority to Palestinian autonomy officials, as of Oct. 13, in five areas: Education and culture, health, social affairs, direct taxation and tourism.

To skirt the difficulty and show Israelis that archaeology is a priority for Palestinians, Mr. Jubi suggests it to be discussed along with tourism, since no "tourism" department exists within the military administration.

"We would like to discuss it with our Israeli colleagues but they refuse to provide us with detailed information on the condition of findings in the occupied territories. They hide behind the fact that archaeology is not part of the accord," charged Mr. Jubi who also taught at Bir Zeit.

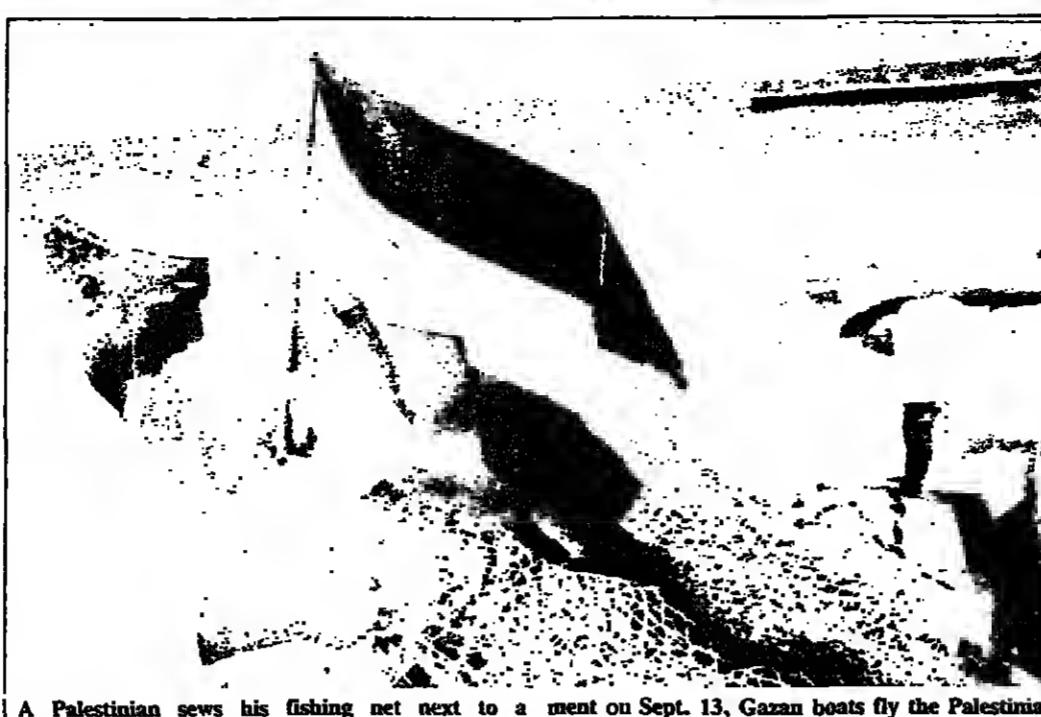
The chief Israeli protagonist is Yitzhak Magen, who heads the military administration's archaeological department and who refuse to respond to charges against him.

An eventual return of relics to Palestinians is premature. In fact, there are few qualified Palestinian archaeologists, making negotiations difficult," he said.

But the environment ministry, headed by Yossi Sarid, a key left-wing figure, seems to have taken the initiative. It tapped professor Aarao Kaminski, an archaeology professor at Tel Aviv University, to mediate with the Palestinians.

"Contacts were made with Palestinian archaeologists, in a bid to hand over administration of the West Bank's five 'national parks' — archaeological sites where relics were found before Israel's occupation of the region in 1967."

Sites uncovered since 1967 fall under the "jurisdiction" of the military administration, which does not publicly account for its findings.



A Palestinian sows his fishing net next to a boat on Sept. 13, Gaza boats fly the Palestinian flag despite their links to Israel's port authorities (AFP photo)

'Heart failure' in detention — 'it happens in Egypt'

CAIRO (AP) — Ahmad Farouq Ahmad Ali was 28 and a construction worker. Police say he told interrogators he was also a Islamic terrorist, whose bombs killed 13 people.

A day later, Farouq died, in prison, of what police called "heart failure."

Amnesty International, the U.S. State Department and other agencies have accused President Hosni Mubarak's government of systematic, widespread torture in prisons and maltreatment of detainees.

"It happens. It happens in Egypt," Boumedouha, a researcher with the Egypt section of Amnesty International in London, said Friday. "We had another case last year. The guy died following torture. They said he died while he was just about to be released."

The Egyptian government's version of that victim — his name was Mahmoud Gamil Saadawi and he also was a suspected Islamic extremist — was that Saadawi "suffered general fatigue," was hospitalised and died of "a sudden failure in the blood and respiratory system."

The government told Amnesty International that Saadawi was stricken as he was being transferred from Tora prison after less than two months in custody to finalise his release procedures.

Amnesty said he actually was held a month longer, left Tora two days earlier and died after six days' torture at the headquarters of the state security intelligence

service.

Amnesty International also accused the Egyptian government of torturing two suspected Islamic fundamentalists to death last December within weeks of their arrest in a roundup of hundreds in Imbaba, a slum-ridden extremist hotbed in Cairo. The government never answered that charge.

Egypt is among Washington's best Middle East friends and considers itself a showcase for democracy in the region.

And unlike many governments, Egypt's sometimes answers complaints by Amnesty International and other foreign human rights advocacy agencies. Like many others, however, Mr. Mubarak's government always denies that state policy allows torture but admits that, as an aberration, occasional torture occurs.

The government neither recognises nor considers legal the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation or the Cairo-based Arab Organisation for Human Rights. It has never answered one of their complaints.

Ahmad Farouq Ahmad Ali's story was told, from the police perspective, in the government-owned Al Ahram, Cairo's leading newspaper, and its sister publication, the English-language Al Ahram Weekly. That means the government wanted it told.

The newspapers reported that a neighbour's tipoff led police to Ali. They told of his arrest in a working-class neighbourhood and his questioning, during which

"the suspect collapsed" and confessed to membership in the movement that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and to knowledge of three bombings.

Nobody was injured in one of them. Another killed eight Egyptians waiting at a bus stop, but Al Ahram weekly quoted Ali as saying "those victims will go to heaven" because their deaths helped in God's fight against a heretical government. The third bombing was an Aug. 18 attempt on the life of Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali. The minister survived, but five people didn't.

The suspect, who is said to have confessed to taking part in all three operations, died while in detention, the reason of death being given as heart failure," the English-language Al Ahram Weekly said.

It also said Ali died the day after his confession.

Shortly after his appointment as Egypt's top policeman last spring, Gen. Ali listed several human rights violations by previous ministers and said he would stop them.

Asked about that, the secretary-general of the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation, Bahareddin Hassan, expressed doubt.

"Each time we have a new interior minister, we hope for the best," Mr. Hassan said. "But it has become apparent that it's not the interior minister's policy but the government's policy that prevails."

North told Waite U.S. 'used' him — report

LONDON (AP) — Oliver North says the United States did "use" Terry Waite when the Church of England envoy was negotiating for release of hostages in Lebanon, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper, reporting on a BBC television documentary to be broadcast this week, also said Mr. Waite absolved Colonel North of any responsibility for his capture and the nearly five years he spent as a hostage of extremists in Lebanon.

The Sunday Times said the BBC filmed a meeting the two men in London — the first since Mr. Waite was released Nov. 16, 1991. It gave no date for the meeting, saying only that it took place this year.

Col. North, a former National Security Council aide, was involved in the U.S. Iran-contra arms-for-hostages affair, and the newspaper said Mr. Waite's relationship with Col. North "led many to believe he had been used as a cover for the trading of arms for hostages."

It said, "North had no compunction in admitting this to Mr. Waite."

It did not provide quotes that directly supported this comment, but it quoted Col. North as saying, "our government did use you ... it uses people every day. You are the only person who was ever able to go in and meet face to face with those people (the kidnappers). That was very important. You confirmed for us what had happened to various people."

Mr. Waite was seized in Beirut in January 1987 while on a mission to protest their transfer to Arabic language schools. The television said on Saturday the Maridi Secondary School was reopened Monday one week after students rioted against a school order to close schools for the southerners. Most southern Sudanese students displaced by civil war speak English as a first language. Maridi school will stay open for two years so student can complete studies in English. The television report did not say what was happening to other refugee schools.

Sudan forms council to monitor newspaper

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said Sunday it will form a council to supervise the press after parliament passed a bill allowing privately-owned newspapers. Head of State Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir will supervise the council, said the official news agency SUNA, quoting an official decree. The 21-member body will be chaired by Mohammad Saeed Marouf, who heads Sudanese Journalists' Union and the board of the state-owned newspaper Al Sudan Al Hadith (Modern Sudan). Sudan's first private newspaper is expected to go on sale by the end of the year.

Sudanese school ordered reopened

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has ordered a school for southern refugee children in Khartoum to reopen after students rampaged to protest their transfer to Arabic language schools. The television said on Saturday the Maridi Secondary School was reopened Monday one week after students rioted against a school order to close schools for the southerners. Most southern Sudanese students displaced by civil war speak English as a first language. Maridi school will stay open for two years so student can complete studies in English. The television report did not say what was happening to other refugee schools.

UNESCO head due in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director-General Frederik Mayor is due here Monday on a visit aimed at securing the return of cultural treasures taken during its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Mayor told the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) before leaving for the emirate that attempts to persuade Iraq to return Kuwaiti cultural assets were continuing. Mr. Mayor will be received by Kuwaiti Emir Jaber A Ahmad Al Sabah at the start of his three-day visit.

U.N. official pledges to get Afghans home

PESHAWAR (AP) — A top U.N. official toured a dusty refugee camp on Sunday and promised help in returning home Afghan refugees, the world's largest group of displaced people. "For us the war is not over," Mohameed Zahir Jabbari, an Afghan refugee and tribal leader told Sadako Ogata, head of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees. Islamic groups in Afghanistan last year ousted the communist government installed by the Soviet Union. But the 14-year-old conflict drags on as the groups battle among themselves for control of Kabul, the capital. Ms. Ogata, who is Japanese, met with residents of the Nasir Bagh refugee camp, home to 70,000 refugees near Peshawar, in northwest Pakistan. Residents live in mud huts, have set up schools and have electricity and running water.

Social Democrat leader named Ciller deputy

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel appointed Murat Karayalcin, new leader of the coalition Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), as deputy prime minister and state minister on Sunday. Anatolian news agency said: "Demirel appointed Karayalcin as deputy prime minister and state minister after he was met with the Prime Minister Tansu Ciller." It said quoting a presidential press office announcement, the SHP elected Ankara Mayor Karayalcin, 50, as its new leader on Sept. 11 to replace its 66-year-old outgoing leader and Deputy Prime Minister Inonu.

Algeria rights group urges mercy

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's official human rights watchdog has asked the head of state to commute death sentences on Muslim fundamentalists awaiting execution for an airport bomb attack. An Algiers court sentenced 38 Muslim fundamentalists to death in May for bombing Algiers airport last year and other crimes. Seven have already been shot. Five are in custody and 26 are on trial after being condemned at the trial in their absence. The National Human Rights Monitoring Group, set up by the presidency, said it asked head of state Ali Kafi to "pardon those condemned to death in the attack on Houari Boumediene airport, who have not been executed," the official news agency APS said at the weekend. Nine people were killed and more than 120 wounded in the attack on Algeria's main airport in August 1992.

Orthodox Jews tell Michael Jackson to beat it

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — American pop star Michael Jackson faced screaming Orthodox Jewish protesters and a barricade of metal fences and chairs Saturday as he tried to approach the ancient western wall.

Hounded by charges of child molestation, the orange-lipped Jackson bowed his head and twisted his locks as he was whisked through Jerusalem's walled Old City.

The singer arrived in Israel Friday to give two concerts in Tel Aviv, and travelled to occupied Jerusalem for sight-seeing Saturday.

Israel's chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau passed by the Old City commandment and said, looking at Jackson: "I am delivering a lecture on atonement for next week's atonement day. Maybe he should attend."

Ardently orthodox Jews preparing for Yom Kippur, for atonement day, the most sacred day in the Jewish calendar, barricaded the entrance leading to the

wall — the last remnant of the ancient Jewish temple — with metal gates, chairs and prayer tables.

They clanged on the barriers, shouting: "Shabbes, shabbes, do not desecrate the Sabbath."

The Jewish sabbath, which begins Friday afternoon and ends Saturday evening, is a Biblically-mandated day of rest when all work, including the use of cameras, is prohibited.

The square adjacent to the wall, normally sedate and celestial on a Sabbath, was transformed into a mad rampage of fans and paparazzi.

The "no photographing on Sabbath" sign was run over in the road to take pictures of the star.

Jackson, topped with his trademark black fedora, with curly locks straining out of his hair, did not differ much in appearance from the Hassidic men at prayer, perhaps except for his make-up.

Denied stroking the stones that millions of others have for the past 2,000 years, the king of pop, escorted by two children and his

band of security guards, was restricted to the square.

He circled the plaza a few times, surrounded by hundreds of admiring fans.

Jackson waved his mole-spotted hand a couple of times, giggled some and scowled once when the pushing enthusiasts got too close.

"Go home, Michael Jackson," screamed David Katz, 32, a religious seminary student. "You are an abomination."

But another seminarian, Avraham Tiller, 29, was part of the pack that chased Jackson's six-car-convoi and 60 armed guards from one end of Jerusalem's Old City to the other.

Tiller arrived at the western wall, his good Sabbath clothes soaked with sweat, with dozens of other die-hard fans and photographers.

"I have never heard his music," he said, shrugging his shoulders and smiling. "But I had to see why so many people pay so much to see him."

Israel's chief rabbi almost kept Jackson from coming to Israel when he announced in May that he would perform just after the Sabbath ends.

The rabbi explained that this would encourage concertgoers to desecrate the Sabbath by driving to the concert park early in the day so as to get good spots for the show.

The show was subsequently rescheduled for Sunday and Tuesday night.

Jackson was supposed to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site tradition holds to be the burial spot of Christ, but he postponed it due to the commotion.

Israel Radio said he was to visit sites holy to the three religions Sunday.

Jackson's tour has been haunted by a 13-year-old boy's accusations that the 35-year-old performer molested him. The singer has denied the allegations and his security consultant say they are part of a \$20 million extortion plot.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 L'Espresso
19:00 News in French
19:15 The Weekly Sport Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Golden Girls
22:00 Thirty something
22:20 News in English
22:30 Le Géant

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:20 Dhuhr
15:45 Asr
18:41 Magrib
19:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifekh, Tel. 810740
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624581
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be a gradual drop in temperature which becomes around average. Winds will be northwesterly moderate occasionally



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday welcomes a visiting group of German tourists in Petra. The 50 German women are all named Petras (Petra photo)

Queen welcomes 'Petras' to Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday met with a German tourist delegation in Petra.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, the delegation's visit is part of a public relations campaign to promote Jordan as a touristic destination for Germans.

The campaign, "Petras in Petra" was an innovative idea that brought to Jordan 50 German women named "Petra," which happens to be one of the most popular female names among Germans.

The 50 German "Petras" spent two days in Jordan's Petra, one of the world's most fascinating tourist attractions.

The invitation to the Kingdom received an overwhelming response. The 50 German

"Petras" were chosen from more than 5,000 "Petra" applicants.

The Queen welcomed the members of the delegation and wished them an enjoyable stay in Jordan.

Receiving Queen Noor upon arrival were the Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasri Atallah, the mayor of Petra, as well as the chief of police and the district officer.

The Queen was accompanied by Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat.

Mr. Atallah told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that it was because of the past two years of intensive campaign in Europe that larger groups are now visiting the Kingdom's tourist attractions.

Since last year Jordan has regained its tourism momentum with at least 15,000 tourists from Germany alone visiting the Kingdom, added Mr. Atallah.

He said that in the wake of the Gulf crisis, only 5,000 tourists from Germany came to the Kingdom.

Referring to the tourism campaign which was launched in cooperation with Royal Jordanian (RJ) and local tourist and travel agents in Jordan, Mr. Atallah said at least half a million leaflets and posters were distributed to Germany to promote Jordan's tourist attractions and the ministry invited German journalists to visit the Kingdom in order to orient the German public on the treasures of the country.

IAF announces 35 nominees in 16 districts of Kingdom

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

dates won both of the seats reserved for Muslims in 1989, will be announced in the coming days, said a spokesman for Dr. Farhan's office.

The list of candidates indicates that the IAF will concentrate its efforts in heavy urban centres of Amman, Zarqa, Balqa, Irbid and Karak.

In Balqa's, Irbid and Karak the IAF is fielding four candidates in each district. In Zarqa the group is fielding three, while in the combined Amman districts, with 21 seats, the IAF is fielding 10 candidates.

The party has also fielded members of major Jordanian clans, some of which represented the Muslim Brotherhood in the last parliament.

In Karak for example, the IAF is fielding two members of the Majali clan in what some observers said Monday was an obvious challenge to the non-Islamists in the clan, such as Abdul Hadi Al Majali of the Al Ahd Party.

The list of candidates and the

district in which they will be running are: Amman first district, Abdul Aziz Jaber, Majid Khaleh; Amman second district, Hamzeh Mansoor, Abdul Munem Abu Zant; Amman third district, Ibrahim Zeid Al Keilani; Amman fourth district, Mohammad Abdul Kareem Maherineh; Amman fifth district, Hanan Saed, Mohammad Abu Faris, Nimer Al Assaf, Daoud Kojaik; Tafih; Abdulla Akaifeh; Ma'an, Badre Rati, Lafi Kub'a, Mohammad Abdul Wahab; Balqa's, Abdul Latif Arabyat, Mohammad Aweidah, Nael Zaidan, Ibrahim Massoud Kreisat; Zarqa, Deeb Anis, Bassam Laemoush, Mohammad Al Haj; Jerash, Suleiman Al Saad; Ajloun, Deifallah Momani, Mafraq, Musa Shdeifat; Northern Badia (bedouin district), Faris Al Madi; Koura/north Jordan Valley, Ahmad Aziz Shreideh, Ahmad Al Khatib; Irbid, Ahmad Al Kofrah, Abdul Rahim Okour; Karak, Ahmad Kassasbeh, Adnan Al Majali, Abduljabbar Al Majali and Hussein Tarawneh.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

PSD chief reviews security topics with Omani envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman Al Udwani Sunday discussed with Omani Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Sultan Al Bousaidi scopes of cooperation in the security fields.

Sheikh Tamimi thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khateeb Al Tamimi Sunday voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for appointing him as Chief Islamic Justice, in addition to his duties as the King's advisor for Islamic Affairs. In a reply message, Sheikh Tamimi pledged loyalty and allegiance to the King and the Hashemite family and said he would actively discharge the duties assigned to him, including the follow up on the restoration of the Dome of the Rock, the rebuilding of the Seladdin minbar and the restoration of Prophet Mohammad's companions' tombs.

Omani foreign minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi arrives here today (Monday) on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Talal Sataan Al Hassani on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues.

Brotherhood condemns Jordan-Israel agenda

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood Sunday condemned what it called the "Jordanian-Jewish" agreement and called on the Jordanian public to stand against the Judaization of the region. In a statement sent to the local press, the Brotherhood said the "Jordanian-Jewish" agreement on the common agenda was no less dangerous than the PLO-Israeli deal.

Conference on women in democracy scheduled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Federation of Jordanian Women announced Saturday that it plans a conference on the role of Jordanian women in the democratic process to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sept. 27 at the Jordan University for Women. The announcement said that a press conference to shed light on the coming conference would be held on Sept. 23 at the federation's headquarters in Amman.

Preparations begin for tree planting

AMMAN (Petra) — A campaign started in 18 governorates and district governorates to prepare the ground for the tree planting season. The Higher Council for Voluntary Work working in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture has arranged for school, community colleges and university students to carry out the initial work of digging holes for the trees to be planted at the start of the season in January.

Minister assigns land for youth

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing Youth Minister Abdullah Oweidat as Acting Minister of Culture during the absence of Mahmoud Al Samra who is abroad. Mr. Oweidat announced Sunday that the Ministry of youth will assign several state-owned lands in the central Jordan Valley region for youth centres. Speaking at a meeting with heads of local sports clubs, the minister requested that the clubs set up a union and select the most eligible players.

Kingdom appreciates Germany's role in educating Jordanian physicians

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday voiced Jordan's appreciation of Germany for the facilities and assistance offered to Jordanian physicians and specialists to study medicine in German universities.

A total of 347 of the Kingdom's specialists and physicians have so far graduated from German colleges and are contributing towards the development of the medical profession in Jordan, said Dr. Malhas at the opening of a three-day German-Jordanian medical conference held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. Those doctors who graduated

from medical schools in Germany have introduced modern techniques in the treatment of various cases, thus helping to enrich the Jordanian experiment in the health care field, added Dr. Malhas.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Vice President Jaafar Huneiti addressed the opening session, saying the JMA has drawn up plans for scientific conferences designed to raise the standard of medical profession in Jordan and at the same time maintain bridges of cooperation with German and other specialists who can benefit their Jordanian counterparts with their own experiences.

Because of the continued care and encouragement by His Majesty King Hussein, Jordanian institutions have attained a high level of excellence, attracting patients from various parts of the Arab World, added Dr. Huneiti.

Buros Tawil, who represented the German specialists at the conference, paid tribute to the King and government of Jordan for hosting the conference which was organized by the Jordanian Surgeons Association in cooperation with the German-Jordanian Society for the Care of the Blind.

A total of 250 specialists from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries including Germany are taking part in the discussions.

CONDOLENCES

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the untimely death of

Mohammad Arar

son of their friend and former editor of Al Ra'i Suleiman Arar.

May God bless his soul.

Our sincere condolences to Mr. Arar and his family.

WHAT'S GOING ON

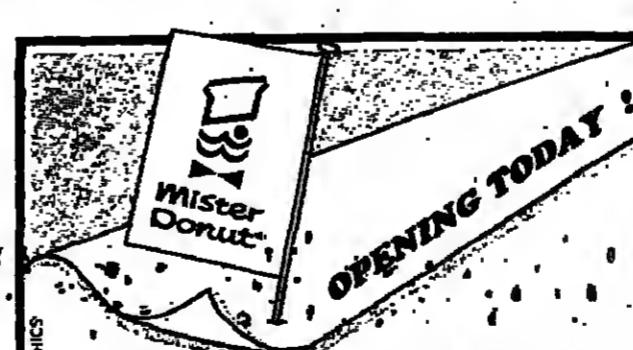
EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and photographic pictures of old Baghdad at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 50 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esheba Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITION

- ★ Annual scientific nursing exhibition at the exhibition hall in the University of Jordan's Student Affairs Department.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1993

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People above factions

THE TEN groups opposed to the leadership of Yasser Arafat have a legitimate right to voice their opposition to the deal he has struck with the Israelis as long as it is expressed in a democratic manner. Judging by the wording of their decision in Damascus Saturday, however, the antagonists of the PLO appear to be opting for all means including non-democratic ways in a bid to foil the recent Israel-PLO pact on interim self-government on the basis of Gaza-Jericho first formula.

The reported agreement between Fatah and Palestinian Islamists to avoid a bloody confrontation over their differences on the accord remains unconfirmed in the wake of repeated denials by Hamas spokesmen outside the occupied territories that no such understanding was ever reached. Unlike the other Palestinian opposition forces, Hamas may have vested interest in only delaying an agreement with Israel and not in preventing one since the tide has been progressing in their favour in the last few years at the expense of Fatah. In fact, the gradual eclipse of the mainstream Palestinian organisation in favour of Hamas might have well been one of the main factors behind the PLO's decision to hasten the accord with Israel. Against this backdrop, a reconciliation or even a modus vivendi between Fatah and Hamas, the two main Palestinian groups, could seal the fate of the PLO-Israel deal.

The same could not be said about the other Palestinian factions working against the accord since their grassroots support is not as substantial. This is not to mention the fact that some Palestinian organisations under or outside the PLO umbrella are simply stooges for various Arab regimes.

Still the threat of dangerous clashes among the Palestinians looms large in the horizon prompting His Majesty King Hussein to appeal to all Palestinians to close ranks at this critical stage in the peace process. During his meeting with journalists Saturday, the King confirmed yet again that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that such recognition was blessed by Arab and non-Arab countries. Under such circumstances, Jordan will side with Palestinian legitimacy and not the opposition even though the rejectionists have all the right to express their points of view freely and democratically. This posture reflects the extent of Jordan's determination to respect and support an independent Palestinian decision on what is acceptable and what is not in the context of the peace process.

In the final analysis, the final arbiter of what is legitimate and what is not in terms of the recent PLO-Israel agreement should be the Palestinian people. The latest polls conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip indicate that an overwhelming majority of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories support the Sept. 13 signing of the declaration of principles on Palestinian interim self-rule.

According to the survey taken by the Independent Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies in the wake of the White House ceremony marking the dawn of a new chapter in Palestinian-Israeli relations, no less than 65 per cent favour the accord. If corroborated, should end the debate on where the Palestinian people stand on the deal. Once general elections are conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the controversy over the Palestinian position would be laid to rest once and for all. Till that moment in time arrives, the various Palestinian movements should strive to make the supreme interests of their people the overriding concern. Vision and responsibility on the part of the leadership of all groups would require keeping their differences within reasonable bounds.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily cautioned against excessive optimism over the PLO-Israeli deal. It said that one cannot attach great hopes to Israeli promises, even if they are written down in a document, since the Zionists are not expected to give the Arabs and the Palestinians much as long as the Arab World is divided and in disarray. It is wrong to give this deal more appreciation than it deserves because the Palestinians and the Arabs have not been striving for so little and they continue to hope to have all their usurped lands liberated, in implementation of U.N. resolutions, said the paper. It is good to see part of the usurped land freed as a result of this limited agreement, but it is wrong to give up the struggle for the liberation of all parts of the Arab land, added the paper. It is right for us to rejoice over the return of the usurped land, but we have to realise that what has been retaken is very small area, that the efforts should never cease and unity of ranks should be established so that the final joy can come about, continued the paper. After more than 50 years of strife and struggle the Palestinians and the Arabs deserve more than what they have acquired now and they deserve to have their lands given back to them, said the daily. It said that we deserve more compensation for the long sufferings, the siege and the humiliation suffered over the years of the hands of our enemies and their allies.

THE CODE of honour concluded between Hamas and PLO detainees in Israeli jails should be promoted to encompass all the Palestinian factions not only inside prisons but also in the large Palestinian prison of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said Ahmad Al Misleh, a columnist in Al Ra'I daily. The code of honour among the prison inmates stands out as a symbol for the rest of the Palestinian people as it pledges no fighting among the Palestinians themselves once the land has been liberated, said the writer. There is a big difference between agreement on paper and application on the ground and therefore, we expect the formation of committees to apply the inmates' deal on the ground because no one would like to see the Palestinians at each other's throats, to do service to the Israelis and defeat the Palestinian people's aspiration, called the writer.

Weekly Political Pulse

Jordanian-Israeli deal — linguistic lacunae or moot issues?

By Waleed Sadi

SURPRISINGLY, the Jordanian-Israeli "agenda" agreement drew little attention and scrutiny. It seems that the limelight directed on the PLO-Israeli deal prevented a closer look at the Jordanian-Israeli accord even though it is also very significant and of far-reaching implications.

To begin with, a closer look at the agreement on the agenda between Israel and Jordan would reveal that the deal goes much beyond a mere consent to a listing of topics to be discussed and negotiated at a later stage. As a matter of fact, the Jordanian-Israeli accord is more of a declaration of principles than an agenda as such. But whether it is viewed as an agenda or a declaration of principles or a combination of both, the issue remains moot in light of Jordan's commitment not to sign a final peace treaty with Israel until the other Arab parties are also ready to sign such peace pacts. The key element in this context is the commitment to achieve comprehensive peace treaties between Israel and the concerned Arab parties and not whether Jordan and Israel have put their seal of approval on an agenda or on something much more basic.

Still, the text of the document that was signed in Washington between Amman and Tel Aviv last Tuesday, hours after the celebrated signature of the Palestinian-Israeli accord, appears to be lacking no matter what its nature is.

Admittedly, it is a very risky exercise to punch holes in any piece of legal document by people who were not privy to the gritty negotiating process that produced such a document. In principle, only the negotiating teams comprehend fully what went into the text agreed upon in terms of legal imports and political, security and economic commitments.

Having said that, I venture to submit a few comments on what I perceive as basic omissions in the draft released to the public already. My first comment is about the overall text as such. Even if the text is regarded as an agenda, one would have thought that

after one year of negotiations the "agenda" would be a bit more precise and coherent. The idea behind producing an agenda is to spell out all the issues to be negotiated in greater specificity rather than in obscure general terminology. Otherwise, it would not be an agenda according to the elementary definition of the term. The language used in the text is generally drafted in non-legal terms. In many ways, the intentions of the parties are left too vague for the purposes of an agenda or a declaration of principles.

When, for example, the parties simply say under the very controversial subject of water that the two sides are committed to secure the rightful water shares of each other or that the two parties will search for ways to alleviate the water shortage in both countries, without specifying the basis and criteria on which such a resolution of the water problem will be negotiated, then there is something dangerously incoherent in the agenda formulation. The same problem appears to plague the reference to the subject of refugees, where international law is made the criteria for its settlement. It seems that the Israeli side did not accept the reference to the relevant U.N. resolutions, notably Resolution 194, on the subject of Palestinian refugees as I must presume that the Jordanian side made a last-ditch effort to incorporate the reference to U.N. decisions. The point here is that the U.N. General Assembly resolution on Palestinian refugees and expelled may not necessarily be part and parcel of customary international law, and the reference to it would have been precluded.

But what really causes me concern is Paragraph 5, where there is an attempt to deal with borders and territorial matters. Where is, for example, the reference to the territorial issue of the Gulf of Aqaba? Even if this subject could be discussed elsewhere within the framework of multilateral peace talks, the mention of the Gulf of Aqaba in the basic document binding the two sides should have been safeguarded.

And this is not all. Against the backdrop of our insistence that Jordan has a stake in the religious future of Jerusalem, why is there not even a whisper about this Jordanian concern? Both His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan have been clear about Jordanian legitimate interest in the Holy City, when it comes to its religious shrines and places. This concern does not appear to be reflected in the text at all.

My greatest concern, however, is about the language used to express the terms of reference for the delineation of Jordanian-Israeli final borders. The problem, as far as I see it from a juristic perspective, applies equally to the original paragraph 5 and as amended. Both drafts make the following stipulations in the context of the definitive delimitation and demarcation of international borders between Jordan and Israel on the basis of the British Mandate frontiers: "Without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control" later changed to "without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967." This, I respectfully submit, is unfortunate language because either text may imply that the status of the West Bank is undetermined and open for grabs.

Whether we subscribe to the legal notion that Jordan still has sovereignty rights over the West Bank, because it has never taken legal measures to transfer sovereignty to any side, or we accept the recent pronouncement by Crown Prince Hassan to the effect that Jordan passed on sovereignty only to the Palestinians, the reference to the occupied territories should have been articulated in a different manner. The 1967 "boundaries" should have been given a more sacrosanct status in order to erase any doubt about the status of the West Bank. As is, the status of the West Bank was left hanging in the air, something I am sure the Jordanian negotiating teams never intended.

U.N.'s moment — who are you going to call?

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Once the cold war ended, a world in turmoil began dialing up the United Nations, summoning mediators, peacekeepers and good samaritans to the rescue. But the emergency phone may soon go unanswered.

The 48th General Assembly convenes Tuesday as the United Nations hunkers down for a spell of limited ambitions, short of both money and political will.

The world body faces its gravest financial crisis. The United States and some other governments among the 184 members remain delinquent in paying assessments, and Secretary-General Boutros Ghali warns his cash on hand will last only into early October.

The U.N. Security Council, meanwhile, is wavering before the world's most glaring affront to peace — the bloody Serb and Croat carve-up of Bosnia-Herzegovina — and would be hard-pressed to take on new challenges.

Combatting charges of mismanagement has become a major preoccupation of the U.N. leadership.

"There is fraud, waste and abuse in any big organisation," said Richard Thornburgh, the former U.S. attorney general who stepped down this year as a U.N. undersecretary-general. "The question is what you do about it, and precious little is done at the U.N."

The budget troubles have been building for years.

The U.N. regular budget is about \$1 billion a year, and annual peacekeeping spending — a separate budget — has ballooned to an estimated \$3.5 billion. As of Aug. 31, arrears by member states totalled \$839 million for the regular budget, and \$1.08 billion for peacekeeping.

Of that, U.N. statistics show, the U.S. government owes \$317 million to the regular budget and \$261 million to peacekeeping. Russia and Japan are next in delinquencies. Some point out that the overall U.N. shortfall of approximately \$2 billion equals the cost of just one American B-2 Stealth bomber.

But relative successes in the peacemaking arena, such as in Cambodia, are mixed with setbacks — as in Angola, where a U.N. peace plan failed to disarm the combatants and a civil war reignited, and particularly in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia.

In Bosnia, the world organization's humanitarian mission has managed to save many lives with food and medical relief, but the U.N. Security Council has lacked the consensus needed for decisive action to end the war. It has not even been able to deploy the soldiers needed to protect what it itself declared to be "safe areas" for threatened Muslims in Bosnia.

In Somalia, where firm U.N. action has been taken, critics say peacekeepers are acting more like Rambo than good Samaritans, as they attack supporters of a local warlord.

The United Nations and other international groups successfully fed the famine-stricken in the African nation, but questions are now arising about the U.N. mission and mandate. Critics worry that the United Nations appears to have fallen into a partisan role in Somalia's many-sided conflict.

When that happened in the Belgian Congo in the early 1960s, it undermined one of the early pivotal peace missions in U.N. history.

Beset by such troubles, and financing itself week by week, the United Nations will be lowering its expectations as world statesmen converge on New York in the coming weeks for the new General Assembly session.

PLO-Israeli agreement — no more lost opportunities

By Pascal B. Karmy

Who would have predicted that the chief Palestinian guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat, who had fired the first shot at midnight of Dec. 31, 1964-January 1, 1965 and inaugurated thereby the Palestinian resistance movement against Israel, would be the peacemaker with Israel? Who would have thought that Yasser Arafat and his guerrilla Fatah organisation, which were claiming all Palestine, would accept now a limited self-rule in only a fraction of the Palestinian territory?

Mr. Arafat and his cohort and other Palestinian resistance movements have consistently and determinedly fought Israel, almost single-handedly, for more than a quarter of a century. The heroic Palestinian intifada, which started in December 1987, bad its effect on Israel and, as a consequence, it was forced to change its policy towards the PLO and to make a deal with it. Of course, the intifada bad its sacrifices: thousands of Palestinians were killed and untold misery and impoverishment were caused to the people in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

No Palestinian would forget how the PLO fighters were bounded in Tripoli (Lebanon) by antagonist Palestinians. Who would forget the almost hopeless situation of Mr. Arafat and his guerrilla fighters in Beirut in 1982 during Israel's siege of the city. No Arab went to their rescue and they were thus left to face their destiny.

Israel, on the other hand, could not longer continue the struggle against the two million Palestinians or so in the occupied territories or to govern them for ever. Israel was fighting hopelessly the tide of strong Palestinian nationalism and it must have realized that its existence could not effectively be recognised without Palestinian recognition in the first place.

The recognition by Egypt with the Camp David Agreement of 1979 did not lead to recognition by any other Arab state. Moreover, the agreement recognises the Palestinians as a people with national rights (and not simply as Arab inhabitants living in Israeli territory) as used to be alleged by Gold Meir Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir. The agreement forms a framework whereby all Palestinians' problems will be dealt with during the interim self-government arrangement provided for in the agreement and its annexes. The solving of these problems, coupled with the implementation of the agreement, will gradually lead to the development of a Palestine state. This is a far cry from the declaration of the unilaterally Gold Meir where she stated: "There are no Palestinians, where are they?" It may be added that by this agreement, Israel has implicitly relinquished its utopian ideal of 'Great Israel.'

After all the pain and suffering endured by the Palestinians, can Mr. Arafat be blamed for becoming a politician put his sword in its scabbard and strike a deal with Israel? This deal constitutes a first step towards the foundation stone of a future Palestine state. The creation of the unilaterally Gold Meir where she stated: "There are no Palestinians, where are they?" It may be added that by this agreement, Israel has implicitly relinquished its utopian ideal of 'Great Israel.'

In the past, the Palestinians had lost some opportunities which could have enabled them to form at least an independent mini-state. But they wanted all or

nothing. This policy had, led nowhere since the unilaterally Gold Meir Declaration of 1917. On the contrary, those lost opportunities led Palestinians to misery, suffering and hardships and to the scattering of the Palestinians in the four corners of the world.

In 1959, the British authorities issued the White Paper whereby a Palestinian state could have been established within ten years had the Arab Higher Committee, the then representative of the Palestinian people, accepted it in principle and undertaken immediately to cooperate with the British government for its implementation.

Again in 1947, the Palestinians, encouraged by the Arab states, did not accept the United Nations Resolution 181 on the partition of Palestine, which envisaged the creation of two states, one Arab and another Jewish. It is said with some truth that the history of the Palestinians is a history of lost opportunities.

There are of course advantages and disadvantages to the PLO-Israel agreement. One of the important advantages is that the Palestinians will get rid of the Israeli army's cruel occupation under which they have endured persecution, oppression, destruction of their homes and death of thousands of people. Another advantage is that some hundred thousand Palestinian refugees who were expelled or fled during and after the 1967 war are expected to return to their homes in the occupied territories. The refugees of 1948 should be given the option to return to their homes and live in peace with Israel or be compensated as provided for in U.N. resolution 194 of 1947. Those are the basis on which Jerusalem, the settlements and the refugees should be resolved between Israel and the Palestine self-government authority.

Two or three years from now it is expected that the psychological barrier between the Israelis and the Palestinians will have been removed and confidence will have been developed between them; this, hopefully, will enable them to resolve all such issues to the benefit of both parties. But the Israelis must realise that neither the Palestinians nor the Arabs or Muslims will accept to relinquish their historic, political and religious rights in Jerusalem; in other words, they will not accept that Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel alone; East Jerusalem must be the capital of the future Palestine state. Its annexation by Israel was unlawful under international law and the pertinent U.N. resolutions and was never recognised by any state.

The agreement, however, recognises the Palestinians' rights in their territory and refers to Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 embodying the principle of exchange of land for peace. It gives the Palestinians the chance, in the interim period, to express their freedom and independence from Israeli domination and ultimately exercise their right to self-determination which is enshrined in the United Nations Charter and declare an independent Palestine state.



M. KAHIL

Years of bitterness, months of secrecy, a historic moment

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

THE ISRAELI sergeant stands beside his tank on the road to Beirut, his helmet off, his leathery face streaming with sweat under a burning midday sun.

He is a veteran of 1967 and 1973. This is his third war. It is 1982, and he has had enough.

"It's no good. It's no good to go to Beirut. There are civilians, babies, families there. The people of Israel don't want it," he says. "What we should do is sit down and talk."

Talk? with the PLO?

"With the PLO." The sergeant and his tank crew did drive on to a rendez-vous with the Palestine Liberation Organisation that fateful summer, along with thousands of other Israeli soldiers. But it wasn't to talk.

For week after relentless week, Israel's military poured steel and fire onto PLO units in the ruins of the Lebaeose capital. The bloodied guerrillas finally retreated, scattering by sea and road from Beirut across the Arab World.

As his departing ship steamed away into the Mediterranean on Aug. 30, 1982, Yasser Arafat stood on deck and flashed an improbable V-for-victory sign. For the PLO chief and his humiliated fighters, defeat was complete.

"It will be a blow from which it will be hard to recover," pronounced Ariel Sharon, the Israeli defence minister who had managed to wipe the guerrilla threat from Lebanon.

Palestinian defiance gave way to despair, and desperate months yielded to years of bitterness. But the journey continued — from Beirut to Damascus to Tunis to Madrid. And eventually to a secluded mansion in snowy Norway, to the talks the weary sergeant knew had to come, and to another improbable gesture, a simple handshake between two old warriors on a peaceful lawn in Washington.

The story of the road back from Beirut is only a brief chapter in a long history of battle to the same land.

The ancients battled over Palestine, and the current strife between Arab and Jew is rooted to the last century. Today, their enmity is steeped in memories of terror in places like Masjid and Deir Yassin, in the memory of 100,000 Arab and Israeli war dead, and in the miseries of camps where Palestinian Arab refugees, ebasied from their homes by Israel's armies, wait out their lives.

But the story of this brief chapter, and especially of the last months of heady secret diplomacy, offers insights into the Palestinian and Israeli predicament, and into the hope for lasting peace.

Even before hope, the PLO needed a home when Mr. Arafat sailed from Beirut in 1982.

The PLO chairman quickly settled in Damascus, where Syrian President Hafez Assad proved to be a fleeting friend, siding with Palestinian "rejectionists" who militated against Mr. Arafat's willingness to consider a negotiated settlement with Israel.

One morning in June 1983, Mr. Assad gave Mr. Arafat six hours to get out of Syria. He flew to Tunisia, PLO headquarters for the next decade.

Mr. Arafat next turned for help to Jordan's King Hussein. The PLO and Jordanians announced they would form a joint delegation to seek peace with the Israelis.

But Israel was not interested. Memories were too fresh.

The Israeli leadership still viewed the PLO as a terrorist organisation, and demanded — be-

fore any contacts could be considered — that the Palestinian National Council, the PLO's "parliament," revoke its charter's call for replacing the Jewish state with a secular one.

By late 1985, the bloody cycles had resumed.

After three Israelis were slain in Cyprus, apparently by Palestinians, Israeli warplanes struck across the Mediterranean and bombed PLO headquarters outside Tunis. At least 70 people were killed. Mr. Arafat narrowly escaped injury.

A week later, out on the Mediterranean, Palestinians hijacked the cruise ship Achille Lauro and killed an elderly American Jew in a wheelchair. The PLO denied responsibility, but the shocking crime reinforced its terrorist image.

In early 1986, King Hussein ended their partnership because Mr. Arafat refused to unconditionally accept Security Council Resolution 242, the pivotal U.N. document that affirms Israel's right to exist.

Israel's defence minister, the stalled ex-General Yitzhak Rabin, told the 1.3 million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to "take their destiny in their band" and cast off the PLO. Israeli settlers, meanwhile, continued to pour into the occupied lands by the thousands.

It was a new low point for Palestinians.

"As Palestinians, no one is listening to our voice" Khalil Al Wazir, Mr. Arafat's second in command, declared in an Associated Press interview. "What do you expect the people in occupied Palestine to do, except take a knife and kill the Israeli soldier who confiscated his house?"

The knives came out a year later. The territories exploded in an "intifada," an unprecedented uprising against the Israeli military occupation.

Mr. Wazir was marked as the mastermind. In April 1988, five months after the intifada began, Israeli commandos stormed his home in Tunis, caught him in the study and fired 170 bullets into his body.

The assassination only inflamed the youthful stone throwers of the West Bank and Gaza, whose rebellion became a daily display of the PLO's hold over the Palestinians. King Hussein relinquished his claim to speak for the occupied territories, leaving the Israeli leadership to confront the PLO — and its own domestic critics.

For one, Cabinet Minister Ezer Weizman, today Israel's president, complained that the unrest "is a result of a failure (by Israel) to even try to find a political solution to the conflict."

Could progress finally be made?

In November 1988, the representatives of the Palestinian "diaspora" — the Palestinian National Council — took a historic step: they accepted Resolution 242. "It's a bitter pill, but we had to swallow it," said Nabil Shaath, an author of the council declaration.

The implicit recognition of Israel via Resolution 242 began a drawn-out diplomatic dance between the sworn enemies, one whose final notes are still to be played.

At times the dance took on near-comic tones. Pressed by reporters in 1988 for an explicit acceptance of Israel — a "yes" or a "no" — Mr. Arafat snapped back: "What do you want? Do you want me to do a striptease?"

At that Geneva news conference, the PLO chairman did deliver a renunciation of terrorism, sought by the Israelis. But the PLO was not playing all its cards. Its charter, for example, still called for Israel's destruction.

By early 1989, however, U.S. diplomats were meeting quietly

with PLO representatives, and pressure built on Israel, whose coalition government was paralysed by squabbling between its right-wing Likud and left-wing Labour Party partners. It would not deal with the PLO. It would not stop building settlements in the West Bank — the true promised land to fervent Zionists.

The foundation of the deal that emerged from at least 14 secret sessions over eight months was a historic agreement: the PLO would openly accept Israel as a rightful nation and work to end anti-Israeli violence, and Israel would openly confirm the PLO as the voice of the Palestinian people.

Beyond that, the peace plan was full of uncertainty:

Palestinians would get substantial self-rule over the Gaza Strip, a refugee slum, and over the small West Bank town of Jericho. They would have a limited administrative role elsewhere in the occupied lands. Within three years, negotiations would begin on a permanent peace treaty defining who would control what in the long-contested promised land.

The plan does not address the questions of Jerusalem, repartition of hundreds of thousands of refugees, or the future of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

President Clinton, heir to the U.S. role of chief Mideast peace broker, invited the Palestinian and Israeli leaders to Washington for a ceremonial signing of documents on Monday, Sept. 13.

Up until just an hour before the 11 a.m. event on the south lawn of the White House, the Palestinians were arguing for a change in the peace plan text, to insert a reference to PLO. But as the moment of "history and hope" approached — as Mr. Clinton called it — they relented. It was time to take another step down the road. The world was waiting.

"Ladies and gentlemen," a loudspeaker voice announced, "Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation... The honourable Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel... The president of the United States..."

It is 1992 again. Ali Taha stands in the ruins of Beirut. The PLO guerrilla, 19 years old, is packed, awaiting the boat that means defeat. "So many friends have been killed," he says. "I cannot count them."

Around his neck, a pendant hangs, shaped like Palestine. Might be ever go home, reclaim his father's farm in Israel? "Inshallah," he says. "God willing, if not me, then my children. Or my grandchildren."

For now, he says, "it's over. It's over."

But it has only just begun.

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People in Taiwan assert their right to U.N. representation

TAIPEI — The Republic of China's participation in the United Nations is the common aspiration of the 21 million people living in the Taiwan area and will be the principal goal of its diplomatic endeavours over the next few years.

Undeniably, the ROC exercises effective control over the Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsui area and is capable of fulfilling its international obligations.

It also has the strong desire and sufficient resources to contribute to the international community, yet is still barred from the U.N. and many international conventions. Besides, it is not allowed to fully participate in such areas as international humanitarian aid and economic assistance projects.

This runs counter to the interests of the international community, the U.N. principle of universality of membership and its persistent pitch for basic human rights. The international community should take a hard look at this issue and arrive at a just and reasonable accommodation for ROC participation in the U.N.

Towards the end of World War II, the ROC, together with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the former Soviet Union hatched the idea of the United Nations and participated in the drafting of its Charter. It was time to take another step down the road. The world was waiting.

"It's like a fist aimed at the heart of Israel," Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu said of PLO control to Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Arafat's Palestinian rivals saw betrayal, top.

Fundamentalist spokesman Abdul Aziz Rantisi, warned that the deal "will not prevent the Islamic generation... from fighting to restore its rights in Haifa, Acre, Lydda, Jaffa" — Arab cities long ago incorporated into Israel.

But Mr. Rabin told his people, "the time has come to take a chance for peace." And Mr. Arafat swiftly collected endorsements from King Hussein and Syria's Assad, then headed for a show-down with his divided Executive Committee at the PLO's Tunis headquarters villa.

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Chinese regime. This compelled the ROC to withdraw from the U.N. and its subsidiary organs. ROC membership in twelve U.N. specialised agencies was also lost during the subsequent decade.

This has limited the ROC official diplomatic operations. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the ROC has maintained a continuing and even growing presence in the international community. It is apparent that the U.N. did not completely resolve the issue resulting from China's division.

The ROC has adopted the Guidelines for National Unification as the basis for its step-by-step improvement of relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. The guidelines are consistent with the United Nations spirit of peaceful settlement of disputes.

It is quite plain that both the ROC government and the mainland Chinese authorities have been exercising jurisdiction over separate territories of China since 1949. This situation is unique in the history of international politics.

Conventional international law does not provide for any such scenario and contemporary international law lacks the appropriate rules for regulating affairs concerning the present divided condition of China.

During the general debate of the 47th session of the U.N. General Assembly held in New York in mid-September 1992, representatives of nine U.N. member nations supported ROC participation in the organisation. They stressed the principle of universality of U.N. membership, and called upon the international community to recognise the very existence of the Republic of China, its contributions and its political and economic achievements.

In February 1993, the ROC government set up a policy group in the cabinet and a task force in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to press ahead with the task of achieving ROC participation in the United Nations.

The ROC government hopes that the issue will receive wide spread international attention and serious consideration within the next three years. The ROC government and its 21 million people living on Taiwan appeal to every country in the world to reexamine the abnormality and correct the injustice.

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6 Economy

Risky loans mean World Bank must boost reserves

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Sunday it expects a moderate increase in lending in 1993 to between \$2.4 billion and \$2.7 billion, but riskier loans are requiring it to strengthen its financial safety net.

"Upheaval in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where new lending is concentrated, is causing problems as some countries that are converting to market economies have trouble servicing their debts."

To handle this new risk, the bank said in its annual report that it plans over the next two years to set aside more money to protect itself against losses from bad loans.

It is increasing its ratio of total reserves to loans, which acts as an overall cushion against unexpected losses, to 13 or 14 percent from its fiscal 1993 level of 12.8 percent.

A bank official called this a conservative measure taken to protect bank safety, not a sign of problems.

"We are realistic. We are going into uncharted territory and anything could happen," she said.

Loan demand from the former communist states helped swell bank lending last fiscal year (July 1992 to June 1993) to a record

\$23.7 billion, up from \$21.7 billion in fiscal 1992.

Demand will continue to grow this fiscal year, again led by the eastern European and former Soviet states, bank officials said at a news briefing.

Already the bank faces a rising number of problem loans from the former Yugoslav republics, several of which are engulfed in civil war.

A halt in their debt repayments in fiscal 1993 required it to increase its provisions against loan losses to 3.0 percent of total loans from 2.5 percent in fiscal 1993 ended June 30.

This set-aside to protect it against possible losses, coupled with a drop in investment earnings as interest rates fell, caused bank net income to fall to \$1.13 billion last year from \$1.6 billion in fiscal 1991, the bank said.

Total bank loans commitments last fiscal year were \$16.9 billion for 122 projects, up from \$15.2 billion for 122 projects a year earlier.

Credits through the bank's International Development Agency to the poorest countries totalled \$6.8 billion in fiscal 1993 for 123 projects, up from \$6.6 billion for 110 projects in 1992.

U.N. agency says recession fooled big forecasters

GENEVA (AP) — Most major economic forecasters failed to predict the depth and length of the current world recession, the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said.

UNCTAD said it, too, was "largely off the mark" and that it was giving up including its own forecasts in its yearly review of the world economy, the 1993 trade and development report.

"The North has failed to recover," said Kenneth Dadié of Ghana, the secretary-general of UNCTAD in an introduction to the report. "Commodity prices are failing yet again, intensifying poverty in the South, and the unemployed are multiplying, intensifying poverty in the North."

He said "a bold and innovative" response is needed from the leading industrialised countries to turn the world economy around but that it has not been forthcoming because they "are seeking solutions to the legacies of the 1980s in the motto of that decade: 'Leave it to the markets.'

This motto is being followed even though in the bright spot in the world economy, east and south Asia, governments follow a policy counter to the hands-off approach, Mr. Dadié said.

"In all the fastest-growing countries of the region governments have given strong support to private business and to exports," he said.

The 221-page UNCTAD report included an article on poor forecasting, which makes it more difficult for policy makers to act appropriately.

The recession in major industrial countries since 1990 was generally not foreseen by most

Agriculture and rural development, followed by transportation, were the largest loan share, the bank said.

In another sign of rising demand for bank services as emerging nations join the agency, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) is about to hit the limit on the amount of private loans to developing countries it can guarantee.

MIGA said it guaranteed 27 contracts worth \$374 million in fiscal 1993, up 19.5 percent from the \$313 million guaranteed a year earlier and bringing its total contingent liabilities to \$850 million.

"If we continue to grow at the present speed, we will meet our capacity limit of \$1.5 billion within this fiscal year," a MIGA official said at a news briefing.

He said MIGA this autumn will propose raising its leverage ratio, currently set at 1.5 percent of unpaired capital. The top limit under MIGA statutes is 5.0 percent.

The agency stimulates foreign private investment in developing countries by insuring investors against foreign currency exchange risk, war and state seizure.

U.S. to propose overhaul of foreign aid programmes

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States is to propose a comprehensive review of its criteria for allocating foreign aid programmes, a senior administration official said in an interview published Sunday.

In particular the administration is to propose to Congress a system-based aid decisions on five factors, including the global environment, as well as demographic and economic factors.

"We're going to be a lot more tough in making decisions about whether a country is a good development partner for the United States," said Brian Atwood, director of the agency for international development aid.

Currently most foreign aid funds are allotted by country, with Israel, Egypt and Turkey receiving the lion's share.

Foreign aid totalled \$27.7 billion for the 1993 budget year, which ends Oct. 1. That equals less than two percent of the total federal budget.

The proposal could also remove U.S. government agencies as the primary aid delivery mechanism, allowing officials to contract out programmes to international aid organisations or whichever group they feel can

best serve the Middle East peace process could increase in the wake of the recent historic PLO-Israeli peace accord.

The comments came after a high-level report released Friday, saying that U.S. foreign aid is often wasted or inconsistent with administration goals, and recommending the elimination of country-by-country funding.

"Funds would not be given to countries on an entitlement basis, but rather to requirements on a merit basis," according to a report to President Bill Clinton's cabinet written by senior officials and sub-cabinet level officials.

Earmarking made it difficult for the United States to come up with money to help the Soviet Union when it desperately needed aid during its dissolution.

"With the disappearance of communism in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, the bedrock support for foreign assistance has eroded significantly. There is no clear vision guiding the shape of our foreign assistance agenda for a world without the USSR."

Mr. Atwood sent a memo to employees Friday expressing support for reform. He wrote: "I am sure that some aspects of the present system are worth preserving, but they have thus far escaped me."

Gulf states need high oil quotas for Mideast peace

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states may now rely on a new argument in a campaign to persuade fellow members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to maintain high output quotas.

Financial commitments to Middle East peace.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been under pressure from Iran and other hawks in the 12-nation OPEC to reduce output to prop up sagging oil prices.

But they have argued they are in need of funds to stimulate their economies, which have been jolted by a sharp decline in oil prices over the past decade and large contributions to two wars in the Gulf.

They could come up with a good excuse this time: "Their financial obligations for peace in the Middle East," a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said. "Some might argue they could meet such obligations from their current oil earnings or overseas assets. But such earnings cannot meet even domestic spending and overseas debts have sharply eroded."

Iran, regarded as a price hawk

within OPEC, has blamed the three Gulf oil heavyweights for a slump in prices this year. Iran has boosted its own output by more than 300,000 barrels per day (b/d) above its OPEC quota to put pressure on them to limit production.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, produces eight million b/d, nearly one third of OPEC's output. But Iran has demanded that it return to its pre-Gulf war level of around five million b/d and has at the same time rejected any quota increase for Kuwait.

Both Gulf Arab states are suffering financial crises caused by falling oil revenue and the payment of more than \$35 billion to a U.S.-dominated international coalition that drove Iraqis out of Kuwait in 1991.

They also provided Iraq nearly \$35 billion during its 1980-1988 war with Iran, while some \$25 billion have been made available to Syria, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The contributions and a persistent budget deficit have forced Saudi Arabia to withdraw most of its overseas assets, estimated at

\$120 billions.

In Kuwait, officials acknowledge they have had to sell more than half of their investments abroad of \$100 billion to finance the war and reconstruction.

Such burdens have also held up a proposed \$10 billion Gulf fund to finance development in the Middle East.

"There is no doubt any increase in their oil revenues will enable Gulf states to play a stronger role in financing peace in the Middle East. This depends on how much they produce and whether oil prices will improve in future," said another diplomat, who is close to Gulf oil circles.

Although they have not announced specific contributions, Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain — will likely join proposed international aid packages for the Palestinians when they assume responsibility for economic affairs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jenicho, as stipulated in a self-rule agreement signed with Israel Monday.

IMF official: World economic growth to improve in 1994

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The global economic crisis has hit bottom and the outlook for 1994 is better than in 1993, according to a senior International Monetary Fund (IMF) official.

"The crisis has bottomed out, later than we had expected (but we are) not far away from an upswing," the official said.

For 1993, world economic growth will hit 2.2 percent. The developing world's 6.1 percent will counterbalance the industrialised countries' weak 1.1 percent growth, and the nearly 10 percent drop in production in the former Soviet Union, the official said.

The official added that the budget plan adopted by the United States is going a "long way" in the right direction.

He said he hoped the trend in Germany toward lowering interest rates continues as the market expects.

He also hailed the Japanese economic stimulus package and its focus on structural reform, but said, "further action could be needed ... Japan needs strong cocktail with a little bit of fiscal policy, a little bit of monetary policy."

Action on interest rates, the official said, could help to slow the yen's appreciation and accelerate the recovery of financial institutions and contribute to a climate of confidence.

But the official warned that industrialised countries had to "make sure we go out of the crisis on sounder conditions, better equipped with more room to manoeuvre."

Though inflation is at its lowest rate in 30 years, the official underscored the need to watch out for a resurgence of inflation.

He cited the case of the United States, where authorities are ready to tighten its monetary policy if necessary.

The official, speaking privately, said it was encouraging to see the EMS out such an "extremely severe test."

It was, the official added, "impossible, but regrettable that Europe let itself be put in such a corner. The relaxation of discipline (by widening the acceptable bands for member-currency fluctuation) is dangerous for the system and not a positive thing for the world economy."

But that is only a "temporary remedy" and there is a "need for resuming these efforts to increase convergence and monetary cooperation," the official said.

The "EMS is a crisis child, it has survived many," the official added, but noted that this was a time for realism. He said the process of European financial integration "should, could continue."

The fund official rejected the idea of a return to exchange or capital controls. He said it was crucial to make sure markets are true markets, transparent, and with "prudential rules."

Foreign firms step up investment in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Foreign investment in India has ushered in sweeping changes ending four decades of quasi-socialistic market curbs and introduced free-floating rupee to boost trade.

The report said India's growing popularity reflected its "appreciation as a sound business destination" and added that the United States was the leading investor, with \$863 million between January and July.

The increase in investment follows a series of market reforms launched in June 1991. Finance

Minister Manmohan Singh, the architect of the reforms, has ushered in sweeping changes ending four decades of quasi-socialistic market curbs and introduced free-floating rupee to boost trade.

Foreign projects worth \$2.4 billion were cleared between August 1991 and July 1992 against \$650 million a year earlier, the report said, a nearly four-fold rise.

The United States invested \$61.9 million in India in 1991 and \$416 million in 1992, it said.

Opponents step up war of rhetorics

(Continued from page 1)

clergymen and seminary students.

The speaker at the Qum rally, Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani, described Mr. Arafat as "a hypocrite, a puppet of world arrogance."

The British Broadcasting Corporation in London quoted Iranian Television as saying that in another rally, students marched to Tel Aviv's sovereignty over the occupied territories," according to Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, also said there was a "massive turnout" at a rally in the holy city of Qum against the accord. It gave no figures, but said that participants included

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

1 Musical family name

5 Lesser

10 Weber musical

14 Ripe peaches

15 Archangel

16 Dairy cream

17 So it be

18 US president

20 Set up the photo

21 Working

22 Acting acronym

23 Leaves

25 — and hours (game)

26 Main

33 Wild goats

34 Canarian sandwiches

35 Indian river

37 Conduits

38 Kind of a zest

39 Reply; abbr.

40 — Alighieri

41 Real

42 Voices into office

44 Takes the bat

45 Sailors

46 Woodland deer

47 Eru

50 Gist

51 Fool

54 Irish satirist

55 Shut it out

58 Coral reef

60 French river

61 Adult long —

62 Gives up

63 Barge

64 Badgerlike

65 Animals

66 Move, in a way

67 Foreman

68 Service man

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET	144,885	188.500	188.000	187.250	
BUSINESS BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARJAH	31,492	5.320	5.200	5.300	
CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK	1,200	1.200	1.200	1.200	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	12,204	2.100	2.090	2.110	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	26,615	5.720	5.650	5.470	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	15,293	4.070	4.070	4.070	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7,050	4.710	4.700	4.700	
REIT ELMAL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1,645	4.750	4.700	4.700	
ABAD BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	142,173	1.950	1.850	1.880	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,200	1.200	1.200	1.200	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	600	5.100	5.050	5.050	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	20,248	6.640	6.620	6.660	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	1,200	1.200	1.200	1.200	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER	3,840	1.780	1.770	1.770	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALMA'1	2,030	19.750	20.300	20.300	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST COMMERCIAL HOTELS	9,250	9.450	9.400	9.400	
TRANSPORTATION CORP. MANUFACTURING	27,120	3.700	3.700	3.700	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,596	3.350	3.120	3.120	
THE JORDAN WORKERS UNION	15,792	10.730	10.650	10.600	
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS & AGRICULTURAL	68,554	7.620	7.510	7.550	
JORDAN PLASTICS INDUSTRIES	124,644	9.050	9.000	9.000	
JORDAN DAIRY	7,428	5.520	5.450	5.450	
JORDAN FIBER MANUFACTURING	1,234	3.950	3.900	3.920	
SPINNING & WEAVING	11,078	6.500	6.480	6.480	
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	44,240	17.300	17.000	17.050	
JORDAN LEATHER & INTEGRATED TRADE	1,078	1.500	1.450	1.450	
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	68,230	10.170	9.800	10.100	
JORDAN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & TRADING	4,030	1.700	1.650	1.720	
NATIONAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	1,200	1.200	1.200	1.200	
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	2,240	5.650	5.600	6.600	
SJORDAN INDUSTRIES & METALS/JORDAN	4,850	7.050	7.000	7.000	
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	3,200	6.600	6.400	6.400	
JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICAL	214,370	6.550	6.500	6.500	
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	3,200	1.580	1.600	1.600	
UNIVERSAL PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	5,634	2.050	2.000	2.700	
UNIVERSAL PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	30,442	5.830	5.820	5.820	
GRAND TOTAL	1,962,555				
NO. OF TRADES SHIPPED 14 PARALLEL MARKET	12,482				
TRADED VOLUME 14 THE PARALLEL MARKET	1 JD 217,007				

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 13-September 17, 1993)

AMMAN — The U.S. dollar moved higher against European currencies, as it ended last week 1.05 per cent higher against the mark and 1.31 per cent higher against sterling, while it moved 1.49 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar appreciated against the mark Monday, as dealers liquidated their long mark positions built-up on previous safe-haven considerations during the turmoil witnessed by ERM currencies last month. But increasing concerns, ahead of Tuesday's release of August CPI and retail sales figures in the U.S., limited the dollar's rise. The dollar also appreciated to 106.80 yen during trading hours, but failed to break through this level caused the dollar to retreat on profit-taking.

The dollar's retreat against the yen was also attributed to concern over the consequences of the restructuring of \$500 million of Brazilian debt to Japanese banks. The yen denominated debt was to be converted to U.S. dollar bonds the next day, and market participants feared that short dollar positions might be taken by the Japanese banks to hedge the new U.S. currency exposure. The dollar, thus ended at 106.25 yen.

The dollar was slightly higher against the mark and sterling Tuesday, but moved lower against the yen compared to the previous day. Stronger than expected U.S. economic numbers released that day, caused the dollar to move higher against the mark during trading hours. U.S. August CPI was reported to have increased by 0.3 per cent, while U.S. retail sales rose by 0.2 per cent over the same period. But failure to break through the 1.610, coupled with unconfirmed rumours of dollar selling against marks by European central banks, caused the dollar to fall back to 1.6098 marks at the New York close.

Analysts also indicated that stronger-than-expected rises in the CPI offset the previous week's report of a 0.6 per cent drop in the PPI, but they doubted the possibility of a Fed tightening in the short run as a result of these figures.

The dollar retreated against European currencies Wednesday. Reports indicated that the announcement of prime rate cuts by two major U.S. banks prompted dollar selling. Others also indicated that continued selling of dollars for marks by European Central banks contributed to the dollar's decline. But short covering and profit-taking on the mark/yen, caused the dollar to rebound and close at 1.5967 marks later in the day.

On the other hand, optimism about Japan's fiscal plan, to be announced the next day, caused the dollar to move slightly higher against the yen. The plan was expected to boost Japanese domestic demand and thereby reduce Japanese export and increase imports.

The Japanese government disappointed most market participants Thursday, when it announced its new 6.15 trillion yen (approx. \$38.57 billion) stimulus package, causing the yen to move higher against the dollar. Analysts commented that traders' were skeptical of the Japanese package because it lacked the cuts in taxes and interest rates they had hoped for, and was expected to add no more than 0.4 per cent in GDP growth. Others indicated that U.S. officials' disappointment with the plan could prompt them to resume their demands for a higher yen as an alternative way of reducing the mounting U.S. trade deficit with Japan. The dollar, thus ended at 104.23, its lowest for the week. The dollar rose against the mark, however, in response to a sell-off of the mark on profit-taking.

While trading was light and choppy Friday and many traders were absent on holiday in New York, the dollar rallied to finish at its highest closing levels of the week against the mark. The dollar also moved slightly higher against the yen, despite U.S. dissatisfaction of Japan's economic plan, as observers did not rule out the possibility of further measures by the Japanese government, after the Japanese prime minister meets with President Clinton this week. In addition the dollar benefitted from reports that the Bank of Japan may cut the 2.5 per cent discount rate by 0.5 per cent. In the meantime, the University of Michigan Consumer Confidence Index showed by tiny rise to 77.4 per cent in September, from 77.3 per cent in August.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	10/9/93 Close	17/9/93 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5518	1.5315	(1.31)%
Deutsche Mark	1.5978	1.6140	(1.05)%
Swiss Franc	1.3915	1.4043	(0.91)%
French Franc	5.5968	5.6265	(0.53)%

1 SDR per USD

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 19/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0540	1.0593
Deutsche Mark	0.4257	0.4278
Swiss Franc	0.4892	0.4916
French Franc	0.1222	0.1228
Japanese Yen	0.6580	0.6613
Dutch Guilder	0.3792	0.3811
Swedish Krona	0.0449	0.0454
Italian Lira	0.0431	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.6846	0.6866

Kuwait insists on OPEC oil quota rise

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, in determined mood ahead of a crunch OPEC meeting, Sunday reaffirmed a demand that the producer group approve a 30 per cent increase in its official oil output quota in the fourth quarter.

Oil Minister Ali Ahmad Al Baghi also advocated a rise in OPEC's overall production ceiling in the fourth quarter to between 24.5 million to 24.7 million barrels per day (b/d) from 23.6 million, the official Kuwait News Agency reported.

"We hope an agreement will be reached regarding Kuwait's quota in the next OPEC meeting according to our just demands, which are known by OPEC," Sheikh Baghi was quoted as saying.

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Jordan-Kuwait Bank and Bank of Jordan dismiss reports of 'merger'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Jordanian banks Sunday denied a report that they were discussing a merger and cited their moves to increase their respective capitals as the best evidence that they planned to continue as independent entities.

"I can categorically say that we did not discuss and are not discussing any merger," said Sufian Sartawi, director-general of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, referring to a report in the local press that the bank was involved in discussions with the Bank of Jordan.

A senior official at the Bank of Jordan also denied the report, carried by the tabloid Shishan. "We are not aware of any discussions that we are supposed to be having with Jordan-Kuwait," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

Both Mr. Sartawi and the Bank of Jordan official referred to an ongoing process underway at the two banks to increase their capitals to JD10 million before the end of the year.

"We are raising our present JD8 million capital to JD10 million," said Mr. Sartawi.

Mr. Sartawi said his bank was awaiting approval from the Ministry of Industry and Trade to set a new price for the shares based on the current market value, the bank's assets and profitability.

Mr. Sartawi said the capital structure of the bank remains unchanged and that Kuwaitis continued to own 25 per cent of the bank's capital as the case was when it was established in the 80s.

"The Gulf crisis has not changed anything," he said, noting that the bank always remained a strictly Jordanian bank governed by the laws and regulations set by the Central Bank of Jordan regardless of the bank's ownership by the state.

Rumours that the Bank of Jordan and Jordan-Kuwait Bank were planning a merger or that the Bank of Jordan was planning to "take over" Jordan-Kuwait Bank appeared to have sparked by a belief that a prominent member of the board of directors of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank was representing the funds of the Bank of Jordan.

No official was immediately available for comment.

While there could be a conflict of interest which will be very difficult to establish even if the rumours were accurate, there is no banking law which prevents an investor from owning shares in two banks — at least that is what it will amount to if it is proved that any individual in the Bank of Jordan is acting through a proxy in the board of directors of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, legal experts pointed out.

"It is a question of free enterprise," said an expert in banking laws. "As long as one does not use his privileged position in the Gulf states, and the drawing line between free-enterprise ownership of shares and board memberships is so thin that it is very difficult to define where there is a conflict of interest."

Even at that, said the expert, the drawing line between free-enterprise ownership of shares and board memberships is so thin that it is very difficult to define where there is a conflict of interest."

No official was immediately available for comment, but banking circles agreed largely with this interpretation.

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Shevardnadze appeals for world help against Abkhazian rebels

SUKHUMI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze appealed to the West for help Sunday in stopping an advance by Abkhazian rebels who pounded the outskirts of the regional capital Sukhumi and dug in near the airport.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who as Soviet foreign minister played a leading role under Mikhail Gorbachev in ending the cold war, suggested the West had a debt it could now repay.

"Aspiring to end the cold war I fought for the freedom and independence of all peoples. Little did I know then that after the major threat confronting mankind was removed, pitch dark clouds would descend upon my homeland."

"The world cannot go on leading a serene comfortable life while death threatens a nation, even if it happens to be the smallest one," said Mr. Shevardnadze, who flew to Sukhumi after Abkhazian rebels flouted a Russian-brokered peace agreement and attacked Sukhumi last week.

Mr. Shevardnadze said he had faith in the sincerity of President Boris Yeltsin but believed nationalists from Russia were instrumental in undermining Georgia.

U.K. Liberal Democrats seek to build on election successes

LONDON (R) — The minority Liberal Democrats, the perennial third force in British politics, set out this week to build on recent local election victories and convince voters they can be a party of power, not just protest.

Two crushing parliamentary by-election wins this year and dizzying gains in local council elections have established the Liberal Democrats as the main opposition in the south of England to the ruling Conservatives.

Yet with success comes increasing scrutiny, and the party's annual conference, which starts Monday in the southwestern seaside resort of Torquay, risks being overshadowed by a row over its role in a local by-election in London last week.

The main opposition Labour Party charged that the Liberal Democrats pandered to racist feelings by issuing crude leaflets in the campaign for a council seat in the poor Tower Hamlets district of East London.

The poll, in a part of the capital with a large black and Asian population, was won by the ultra-right British National Party.

The Liberal Democrats' leader, former marine commando Paddy Ashdown, ordered an inquiry into the charges and promised that any party member who acted in a racist way would be expelled.

The incident is an embarrassing distraction for Mr. Ashdown, a smooth talker with rugged good looks, and the "Lib-Dems."

But it could also illustrate how the party is increasingly prepared to temper its high-minded principles with hard-nosed pragmatism in order to grab a slice of power.

The same mixture marked a major policy statement the party unveiled last week. It advertised its idealism by advocating environmental taxes, work-sharing and decentralised government.

Yet to fend off charges that it was misty-eyed over European integration, the party adopted a new stance of "constructive criticism" of Brussels.

The aim is to shake off the image of a well-meaning protest party and offer a serious political alternative.

In the past fed-up voters have flocked to the Lib-Dems in local polls and by-elections only to revert to the tried — if not trusted — Conservatives and Labour at general elections.

In the run-up to the April 1992 general election the Liberal Democrats scored three remarkable by-election victories but won only 18 per cent of the vote in the national poll.

Under Britain's first-past-the-post voting system this translated into just 20 parliamentary seats out of 651.

Since then the Liberal Democrats have overtaken large Conservative majorities in Newbury and Christchurch and have risen to 23 or 24 per cent in the latest opinion polls.

"It's all happened rather quietly," said Tony Speller, who lost his North Devon seat to the Liberal Democrats in the last election. "The Liberal Democrats were fairly weird, one or two of them. Now it's a professional organisation."

Mr. Ashdown's task is to consolidate this power base so that, instead of crumbling away at the next general election due by 1997, the Liberal Democrats might hold the balance of power.

"Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin). Don't you think the time has come now to speak out for Georgia?"

"Abkhazia is an arena of the empire's bloody revenge," he said in an emotional appeal broadcast on Georgian radio.

Georgia has repeatedly accused Russian troops of helping the Abkhaz rebels, but the high command insists it is neutral.

"I want the world to understand that Abkhazia is a fuse which could detonate not only the Georgia of Shevardnadze but the Russia of Yeltsin," Mr. Shevardnadze said in a statement.

Militias loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia promptly joined forces in the defence of Sukhumi with their erstwhile enemies, the unruly Mkhedrioni militia of warlord Jaha Ioseliani, nominally loyal to Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Ioseliani was a leader of a military coalition that besieged Mr. Gamsakhurdia in his parliament building in Tbilisi and eventually forced him to flee in January 1992.

About 2,000 civilian volunteers flew to Sukhumi from the capital Tbilisi, local news agencies said.

Thousands of refugees scrambled for flights out on the planes which brought them in.

Soldiers drove round the airfield in armoured personnel carriers, firing in the air to disperse

the desperate crowds. The airport road was thronged with people trying to escape.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 refugees returned to Sukhumi after the July truce. Now, terrified by the air raid sirens wailing through the city, many felt betrayed.

"What do they want from us?" mourned 34-year-old Zhanna Paichadze, surrounded by three young children. "We believed last time that there would be peace. We have been deceived again."

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said angrily in Moscow Saturday that Russia should impose sanctions on both Georgia and Abkhazia as neither side appeared ready to end the conflict.

He was especially critical of Mr. Shevardnadze, saying he rejected a proposal to meet Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba for peace talks.

Mr. Shevardnadze also turned down Gen. Grachev's offer to deploy about 5,000 Russian troops to separate the combatants.

Abkhaz leaders appealed to the Georgians in Sukhumi to surrender their arms, and said they would guarantee the safety of the city's civilian population.

Rival Georgian militias, tem-

porarily putting aside their differences, headed for the city after Mr. Shevardnadze warned that it was on the point of falling to the Georgians.

The fighting shattered a July 28 peace deal, brokered by Russia, to which Mr. Shevardnadze nailed his personal authority and rammed through against the wishes of his parliament.

"I appeal to all men with guns

to go to defend Sukhumi," he said in a television interview from the beleaguered city.

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Yeltsin proposes presidential elections to break deadlock

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has proposed early presidential elections and restored a radical economic reformer to power to revive his authority at home and in the West.

The weekend moves, designed to break political deadlock, brought a tough response from his hardline opponents.

Conservative parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov accused the president of conducting a "creeping coup," while his estranged Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi urged restoration of a Soviet system.

Mr. Yeltsin calculates the offer of early presidential polls will ease approval of the parliamentary elections he sees as essential to end his power-struggle with the legislature.

He told a meeting of regional leaders the polls should be held six months after parliamentary elections. But aides have already told Mr. Yeltsin that his autumn deadline for elections to the legislature is unrealistic and a hostile parliament may defuse cooperation.

"I hope this can resolve the stalemate," Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai said. "It should create the critical mass that would enable an election ship to leave port."

The regional leaders had earlier refused Mr. Yeltsin's plan to create a new Federation Council, an assembly to unite representatives of Russia's 88 regions and, possibly, challenge the authority of parliament.

The rejection was a blow to Mr. Yeltsin who had promised to achieve two goals this autumn — the formal creation of the Federation Council and the conduct of parliamentary elections.

He now hopes the offer of presidential elections will be enough to persuade the top legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, to change the constitution to allow polls.

Under the existing basic law parliamentary elections will not be held until 1995 and presidential elections until 1996.

But Mr. Yeltsin's signing of a

decreed reappointing former Acting Premier Yegor Gaidar to his government will not enchant a Congress which had insisted on his removal only 10 months ago.

Mr. Yeltsin appointed Mr. Gaidar, who launched radical free-market reforms in January, 1992, as first deputy prime minister.

At the same time he moved conservative economics minister Oleg Lobov to head the presidential Security Council — a body coordinating domestic security policy, which has dwindled in influence in the last six months.

The overall result of the moves should be a strengthening of radical influence in a government riven by public disputes through the summer.

Mr. Lobov's espousal of more gradual reforms and greater emphasis on state controls in the transitional period had increased fears in the West and at home that Russia would overshoot its budgetary targets.

International Monetary Fund officials are concerned by Russian inflation, which ran around 30 per cent in August, and a parliamentary budget that would make a mockery of plans to cut the 1993 budgetary deficit to 10 per cent.

While keeping up political pressure in what Mr. Yeltsin had promised would be a "super-combatant" September, the president is also very publicly attending to the security services whose support he needs.

Mr. Yeltsin visited an elite

regional leaders had ear-

lier refused Mr. Yeltsin's plan to

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minister.

Mr. Barannikov was sacked for

what a presidential decree called

"violating ethical norms and se-

rious failings in his work."

Mr. Yeltsin also decreed Satur-

day that the rebel vice-president

would no longer assume presi-

dential responsibilities when the

president travelled abroad.

The decree was the latest in a

series of humiliations for Mr.

Rutskoi, already suspended from

his duties while a Yeltsin inquiry

investigated corruption accusa-

tions.

Clashes in Chechnya

Several people were killed

when rebels in Russia's break-

away region of Chechnya clashed

with supporters of President

Dzokhar Dudayev, Interfax

News Agency said Sunday.

Interfax quoted the clashes, in

which several people were killed

and wounded, broke out Satrud-

ay in Chechnya's Naderechay

district, a stronghold of anti-

Dudayev opposition.

Interfax quoted an opposition

leader as saying Gen. Dudayev

provoked the conflict in an effort

to stop volunteers leaving to fight

for separatist rebels across the

Caucasus Mountains in Georgia's

Black Sea province of Abkhazia.

The Chechen opposition seized

Naderechay district in June after

Dudayev, a former Soviet Air

Force general who declared his

north Caucasian republic inde-

pendent of Russia in late 1991,

drove it out of the regional capital

Grozny.

The opposition has decided to

send its fighters to support

Abkhazian separatists, who are

fighting to drive Georgian forces

from their region.

Since June, Gen. Dudayev's

supporters have made two

attempts to seize back Nad-

erechay region, home to 46,000

people.

BUCHAREST (A/R) — A hus-

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mansell to race Indycars for 2 more years

NAZARETH, Pennsylvania (AFP) — Nigel Mansell, on the brink of becoming the first Indycar rookie to win the championship, will compete in the U.S. racing series for at least two more years. Mansell and the Newman-Haas racing team announced the decision Saturday at Nazareth speedway, where Mansell can clinch the title in Sunday's Bosch Spark Plug Grand Prix. The reigning Formula One World champion is expected to earn at least \$10 million plus bonuses from the first two years. Carl Haas, co-owner of the team with actor Paul Newman, said the deal is "a long-term contract, extending through at least the 1993 Indy car season."

Everton win pulsating derby

LONDON (R) — Midfielder Mark Ward and striker Tony Cottee scored as Everton beat city rivals Liverpool 2-0 in an action-packed derby to climb up the English Premier League table Saturday. Everton, cast as relegation candidates at the start of the season, are now fourth, only goal difference separating them from third-placed Aston Villa, won 2-1 with Dean Saunders ending a worrying goal drought. Both are on 15 points, one behind champions Manchester United and Arsenal. Blackburn Rovers, who started the day on 14 points and could have overhauled the leaders with a victory, crashed to a shock 2-0 defeat at home to lowly West Ham, veteran striker Lee Chapman scoring on his debut for his new club. England striker Teddy Sheringham scored twice in two minutes as Tottenham Hotspur thrashed Oldham Athletic 5-0 after going 3-0 up in the opening seven minutes.

Karpov maintains lead in FIDE final

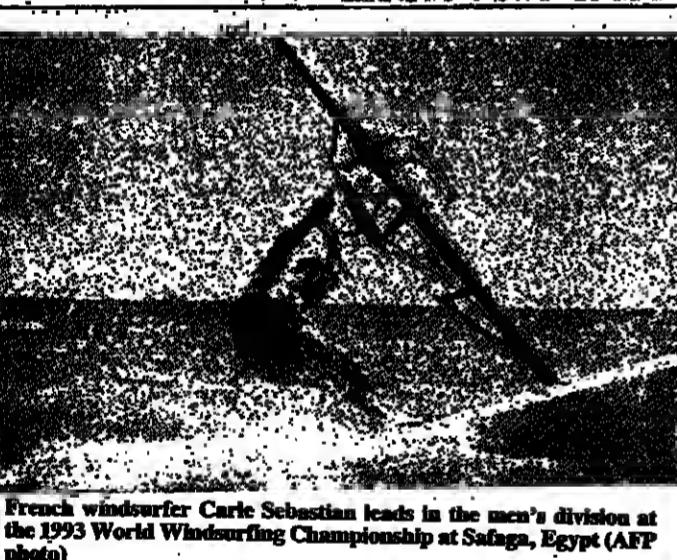
AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Russian grandmaster Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman agreed a draw after 28 moves in the eighth game of their FIDE World Chess Championship match Saturday. Karpov, who played white, leads 4.5-3.5 in the 24-game series. He was world champion from 1975 to 1985. The FIDE (world chess federation) championship final is running concurrently with a rival final organised by the breakaway Professional Chess Association in London between the reigning champion Garry Kasparov and challenger Nigel Short.

Turkish Olympic champion banned 4 years

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Olympic wrestling champion Mehmet Akif Pirin of Turkey was banned four years Saturday after testing positive for a performance-enhancing drug earlier this year, the International Wrestling Federation said. FILA said the test, carried out after Pirin won the European Championship in Istanbul last spring, had traces of an anabolic steroid named nandrolone. Pirin also won the 62 kilogramme class in the Barcelona Olympics last year. Pirin has denied the accusations.

Real brought down to earth by Deportivo

MADRID (AP) — Real Madrid were brought firmly down to earth when they crashed to a humiliating 4-0 defeat in their latest Spanish First Division League clash at Deportivo La Coruna Saturday. Still smarting from a 1-3 home loss against Real Valladolid last week, Real matched the home side for only half-an-hour. After that they went to pieces. Real's latest performance raises a big questionmark over the future of manager Benito Floro who is already being tipped to make an early season departure. Deportivo's performance was particularly impressive considering they were without both of their Brazilian internationals — Mario Silveira and Bebeto.



French windsurfer Carle Sebastian leads in the men's division at the 1993 World Windsurfing Championship at Safaga, Egypt (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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COUNT THE MIRACLE

Neither vulnerable. South deals:
NORTH
♦ K J 10
♦ J 5 2
♦ Q 9 8
♦ A 5 4 2
WEST
♦ 9 7 4
V 10 9 6 7 6 3 V 4
♦ 10 7 5
♦ 6 6 4 2
♦ K
SOUTH
♦ A Q 3
♦ A K Q
♦ A K 9
♦ Q J 10 8
The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass 7 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♡

Don't commit yourself to a line, no matter how obvious, until you have learned all you can about the distribution. This seemingly obvious piece of advice was ignored by most declarers on this hand from a duplicate event.

The auction showed was not uncommon. South's opening bid announced a balanced 25-27 points and North went all the way. However, with a flat hand and no intermediates, North should have remedied in



Three-time world champion Juha Kankkunen takes a jump during the Australian Rally (AFP photo)

Kankkunen leads Australian Rally

PERTH (AFP) — Finland's Juha Kankkunen, bidding for an unprecedented fourth World Drivers' title, fought off Scot Colin McRae to preserve his lead at the halfway stage of the Australian Rally Sunday.

Kankkunen, a three-time winner of this event and driving a Toyota Celica, increased his overnight leeway by just two seconds to lead Subaru's McRae by one minute 19 seconds after 17 stages of the 34-stage four-day

race. The Finn was under siege by McRae throughout Sunday's stages, but he responded to the challenge in the third last leg of the World Rally Championship. Compatriot Ari Vatanen, in a Subaru Legacy, was third, three minutes 31 seconds off the pace, with leading Ford Escort driver, Francois Delecour of France fourth fastest four minutes 34 seconds down on Kankkunen.

A victory by Kankkunen would give Toyota its inaugural World manufacturer's title — the first time it will have won by a Japanese maker. Toyota leads closest pursuer Ford by 20 points.

The field has now completed 233km of the 560km of special stages through treacherous gravel roads meandering through forests

with trees lining the rally's course a constant threat to the drivers hurtling around at breakneck speeds.

Vatanen and McRae, the two leading drivers for the 555 Subaru Rally Team, dedicated their spirited performances to teammate Roger Freeth.

The New Zealander was killed Saturday following an accident on the third special stage. Freeth's driver, Possum Bourne, was kept in hospital overnight for observation but was released Sunday.

McRae, who won his Subaru's first Rally Championship in New Zealand last month, was the only rival capable of catching Kankkunen Sunday.

The 25-year-old recorded the fastest time on three of the opening four special stages.

McRae cut the deficit to just over a minute before Kankkunen halted the slide.

A victory by Kankkunen would give Toyota its inaugural World manufacturer's title — the first time it will have won by a Japanese maker. Toyota leads closest pursuer Ford by 20 points.

Lancia, currently lying fourth on the manufacturer's standings behind Toyota, has won the past six manufacturer titles.

Meanwhile, Subaru drivers Rob Herridge and Rod Horsley have withdrawn from the Australian Rally following the death of their team mate Freeth.

A Subaru spokesman said the team were greatly saddened by the 39-year-old New Zealander's death. He said Herridge and Horsley would withdraw but Vatanen and McRae would remain in the race.

The hospital's chief of emergency department Dr. Robert Graydon, who supervised Freeth's treatment, confirmed he had died of internal injuries.

"The patient had major chest injuries," Dr. Graydon said.

Rally Australia Clerk of Course Garry Connolly said there was still some doubt about how Freeth suffered his fatal injuries.

"An extensive examination of the crashed vehicle was conducted and Mr. Cadringer has stated that it appeared that the integral structure of the rollcage on the vehicle was intact," Connolly said.

"The seat and seat mountings remained in place."

Bertrando put on the speed on a sloppy, rainy day in winning the Woodward at Belmont Park on a "super Saturday" that put an end to the American Championship Racing Series, and a young winning streak by a horse named for a basketball player.

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World Bank sees growth potential in Mideast region

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Middle East countries have the potential for impressive economic growth, but unemployment remains a major drawback, the World Bank said in its annual report on the region.

A large pool of skilled, relatively inexpensive manpower, a dynamic entrepreneurial trading class and the proximity of the huge European market are all factors in favour of the eight countries covered by the report.

They are Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen.

But the main problem faced by these countries, the report said, was unemployment which is running between 15 per cent and 25 per cent.

The situation was aggravated by the fact that population growth was outpacing economic growth.

The bank report said their economies would have to grow at five per cent a year to compensate for an annual 2.5 per cent growth in population. Iran, Jordan and Yemen had the toughest job ahead of them.

It was essential to stimulate private sectors in the region, while improvements were needed in the public domain and in the management of foreign debt, the report said.

PLO to ask World Bank to increase aid

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will ask a World Bank meeting in Washington to increase a \$3 billion economic development plan to rehabilitate the West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said.

"It's too small a figure for the whole 10 years ... we believe the Palestinian authority will need investments of not less than \$2 billion annually in the first two years to rebuild the economy," said Samir Abdullah, head of the Palestinian team which helped compile the World Bank proposal.

"The PLO will ask the World Bank to change the assumptions if based its investment proposal on ... in the light of the new Israel-PLO accord," he told Reuters on Saturday before leaving for the Sept. 20 meeting in Washington.

The PLO's economic experts will ask the bank to double at least its 10-year investment because it does not include housing for an expected influx of returning refugees and new projects envisioned in the PLO-Israel accord.

The bank's proposed \$3 billion in public investment excludes housing but it said the territories would need an extra \$2.5 billion in private sector investment during that time to make their economy viable.

Israel, Arab states and the PLO will meet at the World Bank-sponsored meeting to discuss the plan, which is expected to be the core of a drive to rebuild the shattered economy of the occupied territories following a PLO-Israeli peace agreement signed Monday.

Mr. Abdullah said the World Bank study had not factored in an expected population increase in the Israeli-held territories when refugees are allowed to return home and housing costs.

"The World Bank's investment plan did not take into account the

return of an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 displaced Palestinians or non-housing needs," Mr. Abdullah said.

The PLO says it believes Israel will allow that number of refugees from the 1967 war during an interim period of self-rule.

Mr. Abdullah said the plan would also be asked to include a Gaza port complex estimated at between \$300 million to \$500 million and upgrading of two airports envisioned in the PLO-Israel accord.

The PLO's "Palestinian development programme 1994-2000," the PLO's economic blueprint, allocates \$5.79 billion in construction and housing for an estimated 500,000 refugees it expected to return within the plan's seven-year period.

It estimates \$3.75 billion will be needed to cover public housing and the rest for public construction, a major component of the new economy.

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The King did not mention the "one writer or more" by name, but journalists present at the meeting thought he was referring to a senior official at the Prime Ministry, Khalid Mahadeen, who wrote an article last week (heavily) criticising a government minister, and who is known to have clashed with other senior officials, including the prime minister himself.

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"I only defended the Jordanian people in that article," Mr. Mahadeen said. "If this decision (banning employees from writing) is directed at me I would personally resign. But I don't understand how someone like me who bad until recently served as director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and is advisor to the prime minister can be considered as a dangerous man who should not write."

The government's decision early last week was described by Islamists, political parties and writers as undemocratic and an infringement on freedom of expression. Critics of Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali's decision condemned the move as intended

to curb those writers who had criticised the policies of the Ma-jali government.

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